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THE TIMES

No. 64,625 THURSDAY APRIL 22 1993 45p

UN troops set to defend Srebrenica from Serbs

■ The disarming of Muslim Serbs in Srebrenica has for the first time put United Nations forces in the front line against Bosnian Serbs

BY JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO AND MICHAEL EVANS

A THIN line of blue-helmeted Canadian troops yesterday took up defensive positions in the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica and declared themselves ready to protect the Muslim residents from Serbian assault.

"We will use whatever level of defensive force is necessary to protect ourselves and those who are under our protection," Commander Barry Frewer, the United Nations spokesman, said in Sarajevo.

The statement marked a dramatic new course of action for the UN in Bosnia and put the agency potentially in direct confrontation with the Serbs, still surrounding the town, which remained quiet.

In Belgrade, Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, accused Lord Owen, the co-chairman of the peace talks, of provoking the renewed fighting between Muslims and Croats in central Bosnia, where about 200 people have been killed in the past six days.

Lieutenant Colonel Bob Stewart, commander of The Cheshire Regiment in Vitez, where much of the fighting has occurred, said yesterday that his men would be "marked for life" by the scenes they had witnessed, including women being shot with children in their arms.

"Whole families have most certainly been killed," he said, adding: "I don't know who has done it. I don't know who the victims are because bodies don't say who they are."

The UN's bold stand came as Srebrenica was finally demilitarised. Brigadier Vere Hayes, a British officer who took over as chief of staff at the UN headquarters in Kiseljak, confirmed that all Muslim weapons had been destroyed.

General Lars-Eric Wahlgren, the overall Swedish commander of UN troops in Bosnia and Croatia, said the weapons had been destroyed within the deadline of 72 hours agreed with the Serbs. "It is essential that the ceasefire continues to be respected," the general said.

The 145 Canadian peacekeepers collected automatic weapons, shotguns, heavy machineguns, ammunition, mortars, artillery pieces and an armoured personnel carrier. The UN troops had until yesterday afternoon to disarm the town's defenders. Repeated attempts to extend the deadline were refused by the Serbs.

With the Muslims deprived of their guns, Cmdr Frewer said the UN was now responsible for the safety of the people in that enclave.

More than 2,500 heavily armed Serbs with large numbers of tanks, artillery and rocket launchers remain outside the town.

General Ratko Mladic, the Serbian military commander, had warned the UN that his forces would disarm everyone in Srebrenica, including the UN troops, if the defenders were not disarmed on time.

Since the Canadian soldiers are only lightly armed, Western military sources said that a Serb attempt to seize Srebrenica would have to be countered with air strikes.

The White House acknowledged yesterday that extensive consultations with Britain and France had failed to produce a consensus on more forceful measures to help the Bosnian Muslims.

Congressional pressure for action continues to swell, led by Joseph Biden, the Democrat who chairs the Senate sub-committee on European affairs. "The world must stop bemoaning the fact that all our options are bad ones. They *are* all bad ones. We've got to pick a couple," he said.

Alain Juppé, the French foreign minister, said that France was studying the feasibility of air strikes against ground targets to stop Serb advances in Bosnia.

Brutal scenes, page 14
William Rees-Mogg, page 20

ART OF WAR

***The Times*, the Imperial War Museum and the Ministry of Defence are to send a war artist to Bosnia**

Full story, page 3

MINISTER'S SPIRITUAL PATH TAKES HER TO ROME

JOHNNY EGGITT



Act of faith: Ann Widdecombe, the junior social security minister, is received into the Roman Catholic church by Father Michael Seed during a service in the crypt of Westminster Cathedral yesterday. David Alton, Liberal Democrat MP for Mossley Hill, one of her sponsors, stands behind. Julian Brazier, Conservative MP for Canterbury, was the other sponsor. The minister left the Church of England in November in protest at the vote to allow the ordination of women. Later yesterday she attended her first high mass at the crypt chapel of Parliament when lessons were read by John Patten, the secretary of state for education and John Gummer, the agriculture minister. Miss Widdecombe said: "I see today very much as crossing a bridge between two communions, not jumping some great gulf."

Sadness and relief, page 6

Bodies at Waco had gunshot wounds

BY BEN MACINTYRE IN WACO AND RONALD FAUX

THE remains of 40 people were found yesterday in the charred rubble of the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, some of them with apparent evidence of gunshot wounds.

An estimated 86 people died when the building burnt to the ground after a tear gas assault by federal agents in armoured vehicles on Monday. A spokesman for the Justice Department said that the bodies included three apparently showing gunshot wounds, a discovery which has contributed to suspicions that there may have been a shootout between cult loyalists and others who tried to flee the building after the fire broke out. Officials said ten of the bodies retrieved were of women and children.

FBI officials have indicated that a rebellion against the cult leader, David Koresh, may have taken place in the compound as the fire, which the FBI says was started by cult members, spread.

Derek Lovelock, 28, a British survivor of the inferno, said yesterday that the fire began by accident. In a telephone call to BBC radio in Manchester from the jail in Texas where he is being held, Mr Lovelock said Koresh and other leaders of the cult were about to surrender when tanks burst through the walls of the stockade. He said Koresh "didn't want to commit suicide and he didn't want to be killed".

Mr Lovelock, who could be jointly charged with the murder of 86 people, is being held as a material witness to the tragedy. He denied that the stockade was fired deliberately in a mass suicide attempt. "We did not set fire to our home," he said. "When the tanks went in, a kerosene lamp smashed on the floor. That's what started the blaze."

Fall-out reverberates, page 11

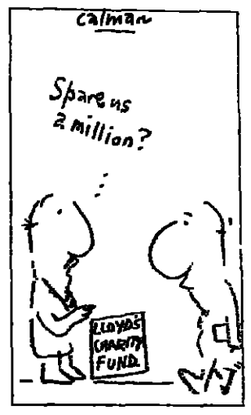
Lloyd's fund may become a charity

BY SARAH BAGNALL

LLOYD'S hardship fund, set up to help the insurance association's hard-pressed names, some of whom face the loss of everything they own, is likely soon to be declared a charity.

Dr Mary Archer, who is herself a name and heads the hardship committee, said yesterday that if the application to become a charity were approved, names would be able to receive help from a £50 million fund as charitable gifts.

Thousands of names are facing crippling losses running into millions of pounds



as a result of heavy claims against the insurance market in recent years. Many have been forced to sell all their assets, including their homes. Many joined the City's exclusive insurance club in the late 1980s, when they needed to show a minimum wealth of only £100,000 (since raised to £250,000). This was relatively easy, since homes counted as part of a name's wealth and the property market was booming.

Dr Archer said the fund's charitable status would mean that payments could be made only to names with "genuine needs". She added that the

Continued on page 2, col 7

Deputy Speaker survives vote

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ROBERT MORGAN

MPs last night overwhelmingly rejected an attempt to censure the Deputy Speaker over his handling of the Maastricht bill.

As the four-month committee stage of the treaty ratification bill entered its final hours, the leaderships of the main parties combined to uphold the authority of Michael Morris. He was under fire from the Labour left and the Euro-sceptics after refusing to allow a vote on Amendment 27, on the treaty's social chapter, on which the government negotiated an opt-out at Maastricht.

In the first "no confidence" vote against a Speaker or deputy for more than 20 years, a motion by Tony Benn, the Labour MP for Chesterfield, regretting Mr Morris's failure to grant a division, was opposed by 450 MPs and supported by 81. Mr Benn rejected an appeal by Margaret Beckett, Labour's deputy leader, to withdraw the motion.

Labour has been critical of Mr Morris's decision, but the Labour front bench and most Tory Euro-sceptics opposed Mr Benn's tactics, fearing that the inevitably large majority in support of Mr Morris would reduce their chances of pressing a similar amendment at a later stage.

Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, said that Mr Morris had acted on behalf of the government and that as a result MPs had lost a great opportunity to secure a wounding victory against the government. "Instead of standing his ground, I believe what Morris did was to surrender not only to this government but, whether he knows it or not, surrendered to Brussels as well."

Mr Benn spoke of Mr Morris's profoundly mistaken ruling and denied that he was impugning his impartiality.

Mr Benn's move was condemned from all sides. Tony Newton, the Leader of the House, was cheered as he defended Mr Morris. The Deputy Speaker's ruling had been "entirely in accordance with the practice of the House", Mr Newton said. Mr Morris had exercised his responsibilities with great care, diligence and courtesy. "It is a job in which you cannot please anyone all of the time."

Mrs Beckett emphasised that Labour would be pressing for a vote on Amendment 27 at the report stage of the bill, and blamed the government for the difficulties faced by Mr Morris. "It is they who claimed that Amendment 27 would wreck the bill and the treaty. It is they who then claimed that on the contrary it would make no difference."

For the Liberal Democrats, Sir Russell Johnston said Mr Morris had shown impeccable impartiality. Sir Peter Emery, Conservative chairman of the Commons procedure committee, called for an overwhelming vote of confidence in Mr Morris. After the vote Mr Morris was cheered as he resumed his seat in the chair of the Maastricht bill committee.

'Replace Lamont' call by MPs

A BLUNDER by Tory MPs last night resulted in an influential Commons committee calling for the replacement of Norman Lamont as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The affair results from the absence of two Tory MPs from a Treasury and Civil Service Committee meeting to complete its report on the Budget, which allowed the passage of a Labour amendment calling for Mr Lamont to go. It is embarrassing for the Tory leadership, but will not force him from office.

Shipping lane risk disclosed

BY TIM JONES TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

APPALLING seamanship and foolhardy manoeuvres mean that near misses in crowded shipping lanes are far more frequent than official figures suggest.

Confidential reports provided by masters to the Nautical Institute have for the first time disclosed the full scale of the dangers. The Channel and the approaches to the southern North Sea, the busiest lanes in the world, are regarded as particularly hazardous. Some captains are accused of "appalling seamanship."

Near misses, page 3

IRA convicts seek move

PATRICK Magee, the Brighton bomber, and other leading Republicans convicted of IRA terrorist offences have applied for transfer to prisons in Northern Ireland so they can be nearer their families.

Officials are considering requests from prisoners, including Martina Anderson, Ella O'Dwyer and Gerald McDonnel, each serving life for their part in a conspiracy to bomb 12 English resorts, to go to a prison near Belfast.

Twenty eight prisoners have applied since new rules were introduced five months ago allowing inamtes to apply for a long term transfer.

Prisoners' move? page 2

Commission to end right to jury trial

BY FRANCES GIBB LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Commission on Criminal Justice is expected to abolish a defendant's right to choose trial by jury in spite of widespread opposition in the legal profession.

Members of the Bar and the Law Society came out strongly against the idea of scrapping the ancient right to choose jury trial. The abolition of the right was supported by Barbara Mills QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, in an interview in *The Times* yesterday.

It is understood that the commission, which will report by July, is persuaded that this would be an effective way to tackle the problem of "cracked" trials — those sent up to the crown court which then abort, at huge cost, because a defendant changes a plea to guilty. The commission is thought to favour proposals put to it by the Justices' Clerks' Society which says that its members, who are all legally-qualified and act as the chief legal advisers to magistrates, are best placed to make the decision about mode of trial.

Liberty, the civil liberties group, yesterday attacked the proposal. John Wadham, legal officer, said: "The right to trial by jury by one's peers is a fundamental right which should not be removed. If anything is responsible for the large numbers of cases going up to the crown court, it is the magistrates, prompted by the prosecuting authorities."

Robert Seabrook QC, vice-chairman of the Bar Council,

Continued on page 2 col 8

Geoffrey Bindman, page 20

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Watchdog deplores traffic disgrace at Buckingham Palace

BY JOHN YOUNG

■ **Britain is accused of failing to cherish the jewels in its heritage crown and short-changing sightseers and tourists**

THE present setting of Buckingham Palace is "a national disgrace, unworthy of any city centre, let alone the heritage heart of London," a report published yesterday says.

The government-appointed Royal Parks Review Group calls for a pedestrian precinct to be created in front of the palace and a ban on car parking in Horse Guards Parade, in the Mall.

Dame Jennifer Jenkins, the group's chairman, said that the treatment of pedestrians, herded behind ugly metal barricades to avoid the swirling traffic and unable to cross the road in safety, was quite unacceptable.

The report notes that in the last three years there were 60 accidents involving personal injuries at or near the roundabout which surrounds the Queen Victoria memorial. The report says that in future traffic using the Mall, Constitution Hill and Buckingham Palace Road should be diverted around the eastern side of the memorial.

Horse Guards Parade, one of the great open spaces of London, is at present regularly packed with about 400 parked cars, the report points out. It should be restored for public use and linked to St James's Park by closing Horse Guards Road to traffic. Coaches should be banned from parking in the Mall except immediately before and during the Changing of the Guard. Competitions should be held to redesign the bridge and the Cake House, in St James's Park, and the entrance to Green Park from Piccadilly, near the Ritz hotel.

The report calls for the creation of a Royal Parks "promenade", about seven miles long, linking all five central London parks. That would involve establishing a pedestrian route from Regent's Park through Park Square and Park Crescent to the top of Portland Place, and enabling walkers to cross the "whirling maelstrom" of traffic at Hyde Park Corner without having to use the present "sordid" underpasses.

□ Conditions at Stonehenge were also branded a national disgrace yesterday, in a report by a all-party group of MPs (Nicholas Wood writes).

A month ago *Holiday Which?* condemned "the dismal concrete underpass, the cafe with nowhere to sit, the rotting lavatories and the cramped shop" and yesterday MPs made clear that they shared these concerns.

A report from the Commons public accounts committee said: "We note the varied standards of presentation and some poor facilities at English Heritage properties, at the Historic Royal Palaces and at the Royal Armouries. We were particularly concerned that the position at Stonehenge could only be described as a national disgrace."

Protecting and Managing England's Heritage Property, Committee of Public Accounts, 29th Report, (HMSO. £11.00 net).
Royal Parks Review: St James's and Green Parks, Regent's Park and Primrose Hill, Department of National Heritage (Room C/11/10, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1 P3EB. £20.00).



Tourist trap: visitors dodge taxis outside the gates of Buckingham Palace

Yard starts royal security enquiry

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL AND STEWART TENDLER

A TOP-LEVEL enquiry into royal security has been ordered by Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, after a series of disturbing lapses at London palaces including a breach of the protective ring round Princess Margaret's home.

The investigation, which could expose embarrassing inefficiency and lead to changes within the royalty and diplomatic protection squad, will be headed by Det Supt David Bailey of the yard's complaints investigation bureau. It will look at disciplinary breaches.

The enquiry will centre on the most worrying intrusion, at Kensington Palace on April 13, in which a man drove unchecked into the palace access road, hammered on the outside door of Princess Margaret's private apartment and awoke staff. It is understood that housemaids were unable to alert police because the alarm system was not in operation, and the police control centre and security gate were unmanned. The Lord Napier and Ettrick, the princess's private secretary, is believed to have telephoned Mr Condon.

The man was eventually arrested inside the grounds, though he was subsequently released.

Scotland Yard said yesterday: "A thorough enquiry is currently taking place and will cover every aspect of the incident."

In a second security breach earlier this week a man, who drove up to Kensington Palace, was stopped outside the Royal Albert Hall after a car chase and found to be under the influence of drugs.

Scotland Yard's assurance of a comprehensive investigation was made as a man appeared in court charged with burglary and assaulting a police officer at Princess Alexandra's private office at St James's Palace. A man is alleged to have made his way into private offices where he drank whisky and smoked a cigar.

Jailed IRA bombers apply to serve sentence in province

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE government is considering applications by Patrick Magee, the Brighton bomber, and other leading IRA prisoners to be transferred to Northern Ireland to serve their sentences nearer their families.

Fourteen prisoners, including ten serving long sentences in British prisons for IRA and INLA bombings during the last two decades, are having their requests considered by government officials in London and Belfast.

Since new rules were introduced five months ago which say that prisoners must have families living in Northern Ireland, a total of 28, including people convicted of non-terrorist offences, have applied for transfer.

Among the 14 who have applied to be sent to Maghaberry jail in Northern Ireland are Martina Anderson, Ella O'Dwyer, Gerald McDonnel, and Magee, who are serving life sentences. They were convicted at the Central Criminal Court in 1985 of conspiring to cause a series of explosion in 12 seaside resorts.

Magee, from Belfast, is serving eight life sentences for planting the bomb at the Grand Hotel in Brighton during the Conservative party conference of 1984. Five people died in the explosion, which was intended to kill Margaret Thatcher and most of her senior cabinet colleagues. The judge at Magee's trial recommended that he serve a minimum 35 years in prison.

The moves to Northern Ireland are intended to allow prisoners to serve sentences as near to their families as possible, also to ensure that Sinn Fein and its military wing, the IRA, are given no grievance to exploit within the nationalist community in the province.

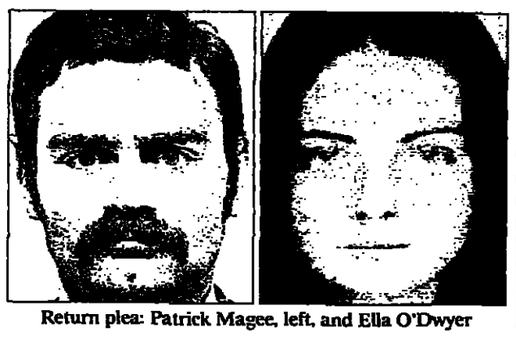
Under the regulations, prisoners can be sent to the province on a long term, temporary transfer which can last several months; in private, sources admit that the arrangement could quietly become permanent.

Officials insist that anyone transferring goes to Maghaberry rather than the Maze with its paramilitary influence. The government can also stress that if they are not well behaved the prisoners will be returned to a top security prison in Britain. They will not benefit from the easier parole conditions that operate in the province.

The Home Office is extremely sensitive about transfers, particularly as Maghaberry has a reputation of having good facilities, including cells with internal sanitation and a special unit in which each cell is equipped with a television.

Clergymen and campaigners for Irish prisoners have pressed for a long time for permanent transfers because, they say, the families of the prisoners suffer financial and emotional hardship by having their loved ones so far away. Father Denis Faul, a priest from Dungannon, co. Tyrone, said last night: "It is the families who suffer most. Many of the families are not wealthy and find the cost of going to England more then once or twice a year too much". He said transferring prisoners to jails in the province would help to maintain family relationships.

There are 32 men and women from the north and south of Ireland serving sentences in British prisons after being convicted of terrorist offences.



Return plea: Patrick Magee, left, and Ella O'Dwyer

NEWS IN BRIEF

Head teachers urge Patten to think again

Thousands of head teachers will be forced to cancel this term's national curriculum tests if classroom staff go ahead with a boycott, the National Association of Head Teachers warned the government yesterday.

In a letter to John Patten, the education secretary, the association accused the government of a "macho management" approach to the dispute. It said some heads had already cancelled this year's tests because they feared that the present boycott on preparation meant that the results would not reflect their school's true performance.

The involvement of two more unions in a boycott would force thousands more heads into similar decisions. The dispute could be settled only by the cancellation of this year's tests, followed by the "most urgent and radical reform" of the national curriculum.

Directors deny fraud

A company set up to help council tenants to buy their homes collapsed owing millions of pounds after trading illegally to stay in business, the Old Bailey was told yesterday. Three former directors of The Homes Assured Group, Anthony Dobson, 59, Michael Robinson, 42, and Keith Woodward, 56, deny fraudulent trading. The firm, of which the former Tory minister Sir Edward du Cann used to be vice-chairman, is said to have put forward a bogus balance sheet to stave off liquidation. The trial continues today.

Times Theatre Forum

Some of the foremost figures in British theatre assemble in Bristol next week for The Times Theatre Forum. Richard Eyre, the National Theatre director, the playwright David Edgar, the award-winning actress Fiona Shaw, the theatre director Jatinder Verma and Benedict Nightingale, chief drama critic of *The Times*, will debate "Revival or Renewal in the Theatre". Booking details are on page 39, with a hard-hitting article by Stephen Jeffreys in which he defends the right of modern writers to update old plays.

Rail union debates offer

British Rail and the government last night said that they had made their final offer over jobs on the railways to BR's largest union. BR and the government combined to put pressure on leaders of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union, who were meeting to consider BR's latest proposals and possible further strike action.

Midland cuts air fares

Air fares within Europe are expected to tumble after British Midland yesterday cut business-class fares from Heathrow to Amsterdam and Paris by up to 12 per cent. The airline has already forced competitors to cut prices by its introduction last month of a business-class service giving a range of fares. Travel, pages 18-19, Business Air Travel, section 3

Hardship fund may be charity

Continued from page 1

fund could not be used to meet losses "but can be used to alleviate hardship caused by the losses." For example, the fund would help with the school fees of children who had reached an important stage in their education. It could also offer assistance with the payment of medical expenses or to provide income support for names and the spouses of deceased names.

To qualify for help, names would have to sign over their financial affairs to the hardship committee and any income or windfall payments would be paid to the committee to help settle a name's debts. As a result of a rule change last October, however, a name can keep such sums after three years, although the committee will still receive any proceeds from litigation, tax refunds or recoveries from personal reinsurance.

The Lloyd's market is bracing itself for further losses to be reported in June. The indications are that these will exceed £2.4 billion. Dr Archer said she thought more names would be tipped into hardship this year, although the losses were expected to be more evenly spread.

Last year's losses hit only a small number of names. "I am hopeful that, once we have got through the summer result, we will be able to say that should be the end of the loss cycle," she added.

So far the hardship committee has received 935 applications for assistance. A further 475 names have been sent the mass of forms that must be completed, and Dr Archer said she thought some of them were likely to end up seeking help from the committee.

Right to jury trial threatened

Continued from page 1

said the Bar would be unhappy to leave a decision on where a defendant should be tried in the hands of magistrates or the prosecution.

"The right to be tried by jury is a highly prized and very long-standing one that is enshrined in the Magna Carta," he said, adding that many more cases were sent to the crown court by magistrates than as a result of defendants' choice. In 1992, 62,000 of the total 120,000 were sent by magistrates, 35,000 at the request of the defendant.

Roger Ede, secretary of the Law Society criminal law committee, said the society would be "very concerned" about any such move. "There are many cases where the crown court, and jury trial, is the more appropriate tribunal for determining guilt or innocence."

There would also be concern, he added, about whether magistrates could be sufficiently objective when faced with conflicting evidence from defendants on one side, and from the police or store detectives on the other, "when they see the police or store detectives regularly in court".

Under proposals tabled by the Justices' Clerks' Society, the clerk would allocate cases in the way now done for children's cases, with a right of appeal as a safeguard. The clerks would also have power to settle preliminary procedural issues.

It does emphasise that the decision should not be made in terms of the likely sentence or the seriousness of an offence. At the same time, committal proceedings would be abolished.

Geoffrey Bindman, page 20

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NHS urged to seek private funding

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A DRIVE to increase private investment in the NHS was launched yesterday as health ministers, under pressure from the Treasury, continued an increasingly urgent search for new sources of funds.

Health authorities and NHS trusts are to be encouraged to make contracts with private companies to build new units or lease expensive equipment to provide extra facilities for NHS patients. Hospitals will be free to negotiate deals worth up to £10 million without clearance by the Treasury, a 40-fold increase on the previous ceiling of £250,000.

Announcing the move, Tom Sackville, junior health minister, said it would mean extra money for the NHS and could open the way to private companies running wards or hospitals on behalf of the NHS. "We welcome such ideas," he told a Social Market Foundation seminar in London yesterday. "There is no reason why health authorities and trusts should not make such contracts if they are good for patients."

Labour immediately condemned the move. David Blunkett, shadow health secretary, accused the government of planning a new "privatisation onslaught" which marked "the beginning of the end of the NHS".

The use of private capital to fund public services, such as leasing arrangements, was acceptable, he said. "However, handing over key health care functions to the private sector is not acceptable to those of us committed to a free and comprehensive service."

Increasing private sector involvement in the running of hospitals was the vision that fired the 1988 NHS review chaired by Margaret Thatcher, which led to the NHS reforms. By separating the payment for health care from its provision, the reforms paved the way for private and public organisations to compete to run the hospitals while preserving the founding principles of a service that is publicly funded, comprehensive and free at the point of use.

Earlier Mr Sackville gave examples of joint public and private schemes which are benefiting the NHS. Sheffield Northern General Trust has a seven-year lease with a private company to provide kidney dialysis facilities which give more flexibility and better value for money than a conventionally financed arrangement, he said. A consortium of northern health authorities have signed a deal with a private company in Oldham to burn their waste at a price below the market level.

Sue Ellen, managing director of Bupa health services, told the seminar that there was a need for a change of attitude among many NHS managers. "Too often we are treated with mistrust, bureaucratic opposition and ideological resistance," she said.

هكذا من الأصل

Captains say flagrant breaches of safety show the high risk of collision on crowded seas

Appalling seamanship blamed for near misses

BY TIM JONES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

LIVES are being endangered by appalling seamanship on the high seas, where the risk of collision is much greater than has been acknowledged.

Copies of confidential reports provided by ships' masters, which have been obtained by *The Times*, describe flagrant breaches of internationally recognised safety rules and stories of ships sailing at night without lookouts and failing to acknowledge radio safety warnings when they were on collision course.

Many potential disasters have occurred in British waters, particularly in the English Channel and the southern North Sea, which are among the busiest sea lanes in the world.

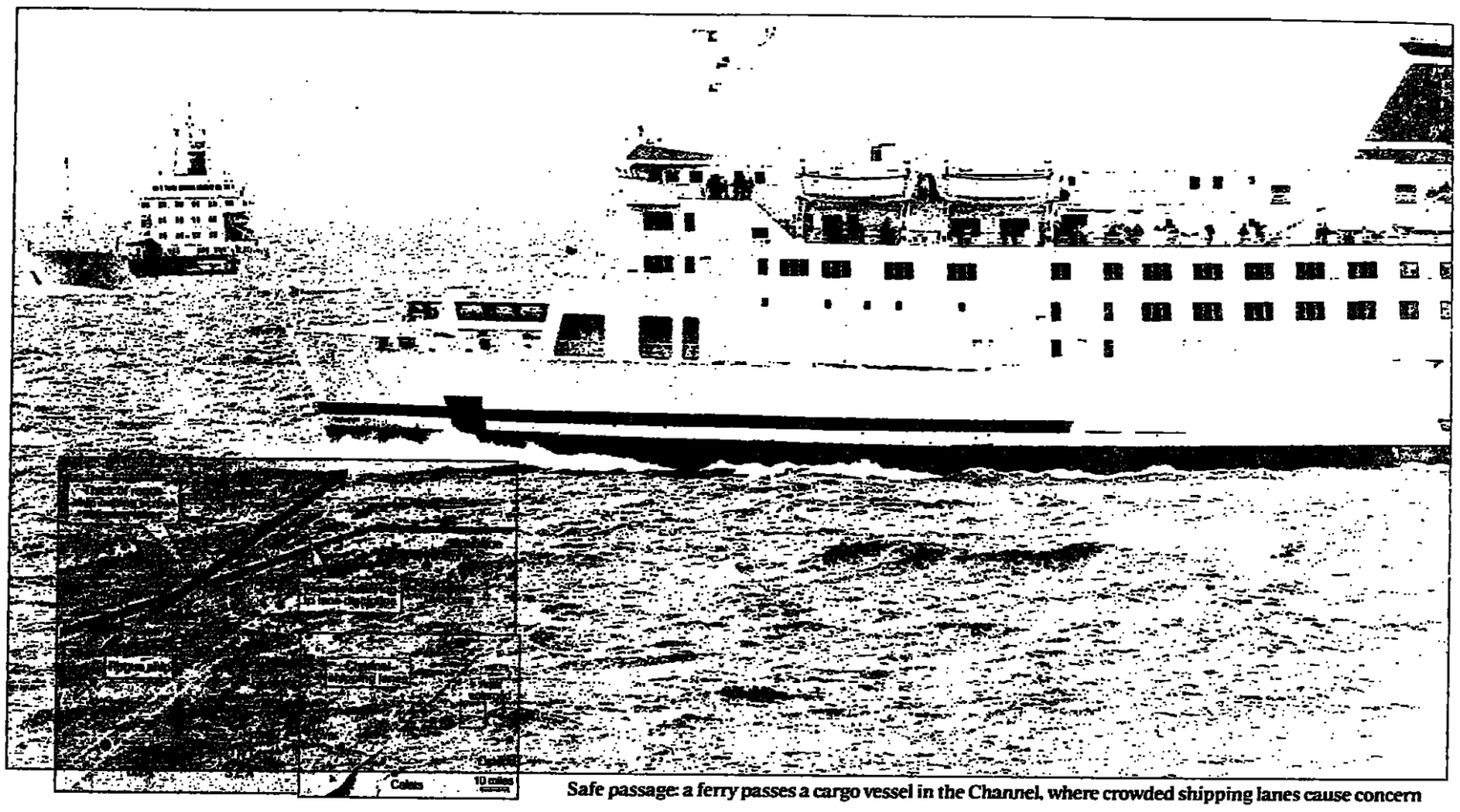
One report describes how a large container ship, travelling at 17 knots through the Channel in thick fog, sliced into a yacht, throwing its crewinto the sea, and steamed on, apparently unaware of the mishap.

A potentially disastrous incident reported earlier this year occurred where the Strait of Dover, one of the busiest waterways in the world, widens out into the southern approaches to the North Sea.

The area demands extreme vigilance for it is a "traffic separation" crossroads where ships change direction to head up the North Sea or turn to Rotterdam or other continental ports.

On a clear moonlit night, four ships, maintaining strict lane discipline, were heading west off the Belgium coast at Ostend. The master of one of them was horrified to see that an oncoming coaster had strayed directly into their path. Instead of changing course, it cut right in front of them and passed within yards of a light vessel.

The report says: "On my course it represented a collision risk. I made an alteration to port... My fear was it may not have been keeping a proper lookout... it contravened safety rules and was an act of appalling seamanship."



Safe passage: a ferry passes a cargo vessel in the Channel, where crowded shipping lanes cause concern

The reports, compiled by the independent Nautical Institute, come at a time when such maritime incidents are increasing everywhere.

Figures compiled by the transport department's Marine Accident Investigation Branch show that "hazardous incidents", which include near misses, reported to it by British-registered vessels have increased from 158 in 1990 to 230 last year.

John MacGregor, the transport secretary, has given his backing to the Nautical Institute's Marine Accident Reporting Scheme (MARS) because he accepts that many captains and owners are reluctant to co-operate with an official government body. Michael Plumbridge, the institute's deputy secretary, said that without a system of confidential reports it could, because of pending legal actions, be years before mariners were alerted to potential dangers on the high seas.

Captain Robin Beedel, who heads MARS, said: "Having this insight into hitherto unpublished reports will be beneficial to all, and hopefully prevent similar occurrences happening in the future."

The government and the institute hope the confidential reports will lead to demands for a greater enforcement of safety regulations when the International Association of Marine Accident Inspectors hold their next meeting later this year in Cyprus.

The reports given to the institute indicate that some ships' masters appear to treat internationally agreed regulations designed to prevent collisions at sea with either contempt or ignorance.

Accused police say pub bomb suspect 'sang like a canary'

BY RICHARD DUCE

PREVIOUSLY unpublished documents will prove that one of the Guildford Four readily confessed to being a member of the IRA and taking part in the bombing of two public houses, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Edmund Lawson QC told the jury that Patrick Armstrong "sang like a canary" to officers from three police forces about his involvement in the 1974 bombings of the Horse and Groom and Seven Stars pubs in Guildford, which killed five people and injured more than 70.

Mr Lawson, who is defending one of three police officers accused of conspiring to pervert the course of justice by manufacturing evidence against Mr Armstrong, said it was the officers' first chance to defend themselves against press vilification.

The former policemen, Thomas Style, 59, John Donaldson, 57, and Vernon Attwell, 52, deny the charge.

Mr Armstrong and the three other members of the so-called Guildford Four, Gerard Conlon, Paul Hill and Carole Richardson, had their convictions for murder quashed by the Court of Appeal in 1989 and Mr Armstrong received compensation for spending 14 years in prison.

But Mr Lawson said he had confessed readily and repeated the confession when he "sang like a canary" to a group of senior officers, including the future Metropolitan Police commissioner Sir Peter Imbert.

In addition Mr Armstrong had spoken of his IRA activities and confessed to an officer from the Royal Ulster Constabulary about his part in five previously unknown robberies in Belfast, he said. Mr Lawson also disclosed that Mr Armstrong had given police the names of ten IRA members, which had been passed on to the security forces.

Then, shortly after he was jailed for life with a recommendation that he serve a minimum of 35 years, Mr Armstrong saw Mr Attwell and Mr Style in prison and volunteered information about an IRA activist, implicated his flatmates in keeping guns and explosives, and "set out a catalogue of people he knew in Belfast whom he identified as members of the IRA".

The court had been told that Mr Armstrong would not be giving evidence. Mr Lawson said: "While Mr Armstrong and his advisers may be prepared to make public pronouncements and make submissions to Sir John May in his enquiry [into alleged miscarriages of justice], they are not prepared to help us: not prepared to help the prosecution, not prepared to help the defence, not prepared to help you."

Julian Bevan QC, for the prosecution, claimed on Tuesday that contemporaneous handwritten notes, said to have been made by the defendants during interviews with Mr Armstrong in which he is alleged to have confessed to the bombings, were made up later.

Mr Bevan said: "The crucial question is whether those notes were contemporaneous or not, not whether Armstrong actually confessed or whether Armstrong is guilty of the crimes alleged against him."

The trial continues.



Howson: chosen from a shortlist of ten

Times posts war artist to Bosnia

THE TIMES, in collaboration with the Imperial War Museum and the Ministry of Defence, is to send a war artist to Bosnia.

Peter Howson, 35, was chosen from a shortlist of ten artists who volunteered to record their impressions of the war in the former Yugoslavia and his pictures will appear first in *The Times*. Peter Stothard, the Editor, said last night that the commissioning committee was particularly impressed by his portrayal of pain and anguish in the human form.

He will join the British Army contingent attached to the UN peacekeeping force as soon as the UN commander in the field lifts his ban on visitors travelling with troops in the war zone.

Mr Howson, a graduate of the Glasgow School of Art whose pictures hang in many of the world's great galleries, was for nine months a soldier in the Royal Highland Fusiliers.

In an interview with Alan Jackson to be published shortly in *The Times Magazine*, he said: "I have never seen as much anguish in all my life as in those faces in the pictures coming back from Bosnia."

Beatles sale ends in discord

BY JOE JOSEPH

A LONDON auction billed as the biggest-ever sale of Beatles memorabilia raised a fraction of what had been expected yesterday and dissolved into quarrels over the authenticity of some lots.

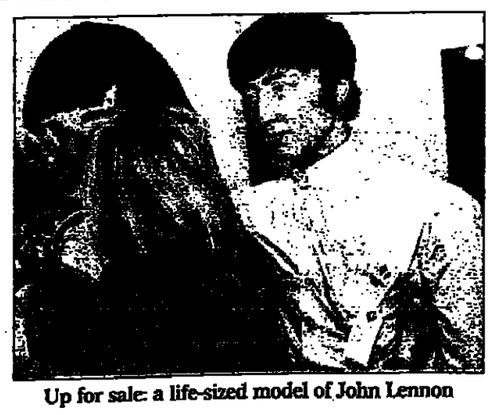
The sale, at Phillips, raised £86,399 (excluding 10 per cent commission), against estimates of £300,000. The star item, a Lennon black and white double cutaway electric Rickenbacker guitar that had been expected to fetch £75,000, failed to sell after Wayne Rogers, a dealer, announced it was not the Rickenbacker that the musician made famous.

Mr Rogers, from Alabama, said the liquidation sale of Beatle memorabilia from London's Trocadero Beatles Exhibition was disappointing. "A lot of this stuff is dubious," he added. "There are no letters to authenticate them."

A Gretsch semi-cutaway electric guitar, said to have belonged to George Harrison, was withdrawn after Mr Rogers said a Gretsch was "one of George's favourite guitars. He still has it. He only had one of them."

Ted Owen, Phillips' rock and pop specialist, admitted that George Harrison had queried the authenticity of some of the guitars but had little time for Mr Rogers and other complainants.

☐ Bill Wyman, the former Rolling Stone now aged 56, married for the third time yesterday at the village of St Paul de Vence in the south of France. His bride was Suzanne Accosta, a 33-year old fashion designer. Photograph, page 24.



Up for sale: a life-sized model of John Lennon

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هكذا من الاصل

Police chief urges violence victims to video home attacks

BY KATE ALDERSON AND STEWART TENDLER

VIDEO cameras should be hidden in the homes of domestic violence victims to record assaults and provide police with evidence for prosecutions, a senior police officer said yesterday.

Andrew May, assistant chief constable of South Wales, said hidden cameras activated by the victims would provide corroboration where there were no witnesses to attacks.

"It is only a proposal at this stage and cameras would only be used in extreme cases and only with the victim's permission," he said. "They could be effective for the small percentage of women who suffer repeated attacks which their partner denies. The problem we have now is that if the victim and her partner provide conflicting evidence it is thrown out by the Crown Prosecution Service and so the problem simply continues and stagnates."

Mr May's proposal was initially met with stunned silence at a Victim Support conference on domestic violence, but then fired a heated debate from many of the 160 delegates, raising issues of civil liberties and intrusion.

"Of course, this raises major questions of human rights," Mr May said. "But after all, we are filmed at many other times, even when we are buying petrol. A victim would be able to decide when to use the camera and whether she wanted to give the evidence to the police. Victims would be in control of the technology and it could be used as verification of their allegations."

Mr May said there would be no pressure on the victim to use the taped evidence.

But Helen Reeves, director of Victim Support, expressed reservations. "We are pleased that the police are thinking about original ideas, but there are cheaper options which would help more women. A more obvious solution could be push-button alarms like those used by the elderly. This proposal is not a close circuit video link. Women would still have to endure the violence, whereas an alarm link-up could prevent it.

"This does not provide a solution for women who are repeatedly attacked outside of their own home."

Ms Reeves said she did not believe the civil liberties question was a problem: "Women have civil liberties too and these are being infringed if they are being beaten up."

Michael Jack, minister of state at the Home Office, said the idea brought a "freshness of approach" which highlighted the role of new technology. Similar technology is already used in blackmail cases.

There are no immediate plans to officially present the idea to the government but it will be discussed within the police force, in consultation with groups such as Victim Support. A pilot scheme might then follow.



Flexible policing: Sergeant Bob Bryant demonstrates the use of the American baton on a would-be attacker

Officers try extending truncheon

POLICE yesterday demonstrated an extendible truncheon soon to be carried by bobbies on the beat. Officers in Avon and Somerset are testing the American baton in a year-long trial in Bath and Weston-super-Mare.

The baton lengthens from 7in to 21in with a flick of the wrist.

Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, gave approval ahead for tests last month. He believes the fact that it can be concealed gives it a great advantage over the American side-handled baton. The extendible truncheon is designed to cause "bouncing trauma", which sends fluid shock waves along a limb, temporarily disabling through pain rather than injury.

Its potential was demonstrated yesterday at the force's headquarters at Portishead, Avon. The head of force training, Assistant Chief Constable Hugo Pike, said: "The new baton is very simple to use and acts as a great deterrent. It is low-profile and does not detract from the image of British policing."

Smoking cures may pose own heart risk

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE who try to give up smoking by using nicotine gum or patches may be unwittingly putting themselves at risk of heart disease.

British researchers, testing a new way of monitoring the effects of nicotine on the body, have discovered that doses of the chemical from anti-smoking aids can significantly alter blood flows in arteries.

The scientists, based at Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, London, claim the flows are consistent with the stiffening of arteries which may, over time, increase the risk of heart attacks and strokes.

They concede that people who continue to smoke are at a much higher risk of developing arteriosclerosis, the hardening of the arteries. Nevertheless, they believe that anti-smoking aids should not be portrayed as being without their own long-term hazards.

Details of the research were disclosed at a meeting of the Physiological Society, being held at Leicester University, by Chris Rees and professor Colin Caro, two of the team involved.

The leg arteries of about 15 healthy young people were scanned using ultrasound after being given nicotine-impregnated chewing gum. The scanner detected changes in blood speeds through the main artery for up to two hours afterwards with average flows and speeds significantly increased.

Nicotine may be stimulating releases of the hormone noradrenaline, which causes the heart to beat faster and the arteries to stiffen, the researchers suggest.

Nick Watkins, another team member, said yesterday that although nicotine patches had not been studied it was possible that they carried similar risks. Unlike chewing gum, the patches are in place permanently delivering a continuous dose. Tests are now planned with larger samples.

Mr Rees added: "Maybe there should be health warnings on the packs about heart disease if our theory is correct."

Big tobacco firms face anger over legal move

BY PAUL WILKINSON

FIVE tobacco companies have been accused of trying to "stifle at birth" court actions brought by alleged victims of passive smoking.

Although they are not directly involved in the cases, which are between workers and employers, the companies are said to be pressuring the Legal Aid Board not to grant financial assistance to the plaintiffs. Many are people with little or no cash to finance a lengthy court action.

The tobacco companies, Rothmans, British-American Tobacco, Philip Morris, Gallaher and Imperial Tobacco, have taken the unusual step of making a formal submission to the Legal Aid Board. It reminds the board that it has a statutory obligation not to grant aid unless there is a reasonable likelihood of success. It adds that the cases are highly complex and have little chance of success, so granting aid would be a waste of public money.

Colin Stutt, a legal adviser to the board, said yesterday that submissions from third parties were allowed, "but I cannot recall any previously".

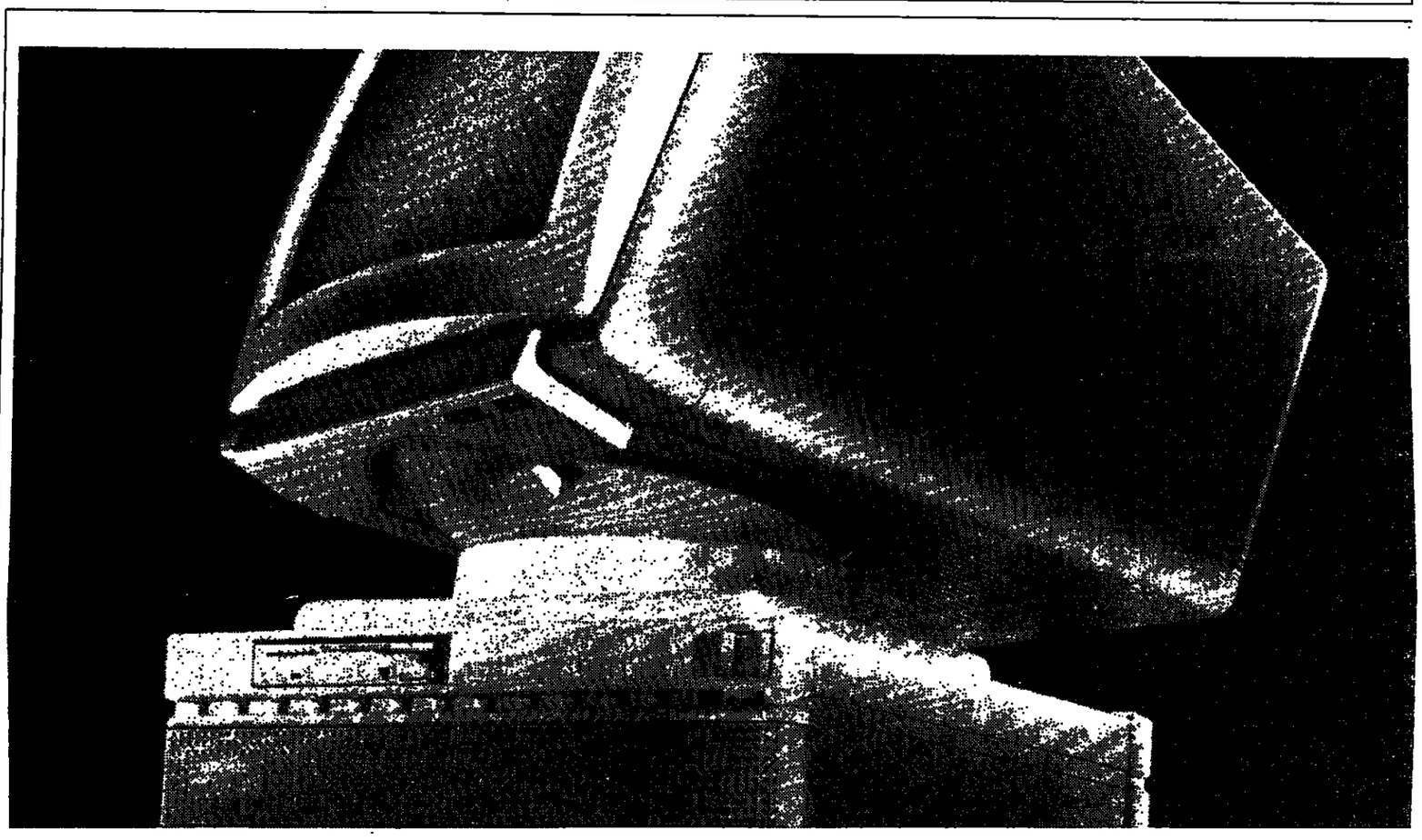
Mark Flanagan, assistant director of the anti-smoking group Action on Smoking and Health, said the move, "although not illegal, is highly immoral".

He said it demonstrated how importantly they regarded passive smoking. "They are saying they are prepared to interfere in every passive smoking case against an employer and strangle them at birth.

"If a case is passed by the courts then employers will modify their no-smoking policy at work. Smoking will decline and that will affect the tobacco companies' sales."

Louis Charalambous, a lawyer preparing a case for a West Yorkshire woman who claims she developed chronic bronchitis because of passive smoking at work, said: "It is the big tobacco firms exercising their not-inconsiderable muscle."

John Meltzer, a solicitor for Rothmans and British-American, said: "It was felt that the board might benefit from an informed assessment of the issues raised by these claims."



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Tory minister turns her back on Church of England as doubts are voiced over exodus

Widdecombe tells of sadness and relief at crossing bridge

BY IAN MURRAY

ANN Widdecombe, a junior social security minister and disaffected Anglican, took part in her first High Mass in the crypt chapel of Parliament yesterday after a service in Westminster Cathedral to receive her into the Roman Catholic church.

The minister, a former convent schoolgirl who had become increasingly disenchanted with the Church of England, attended services at the cathedral for the past two years but remained an Anglican until last November, when the General Synod voted for the ordination of women. "I see today very much as crossing a bridge between two communions, not jumping some great gulf," she said. "I had a very strong emotional resistance to doing this but it became quite inevitable that it would happen. After the vote, I could not regard the Church of England as any longer part of the Catholic and Apostolic Church which I say I believe in each week in the creed.

"Today is both immensely happy, with a huge sense of relief, but it is also a sad day. When you cross a bridge you have your back to one side."



Widdecombe: unhappy with Church of England

As a sign of the "bridge" between the two churches, Miss Widdecombe chose the confirmation name "Hugh" after the Catholic Saint Hugh of Lincoln (1140-1200) and the Protestant martyr Hugh Latimer (1485-1555). She picked the hymns and lessons for the services to stress the universality of the church. "There was no triumphalism of any kind," Miss Widdecombe said.

Catholic mass has been held each month in the crypt chapel since the start of the year and Miss Widdecombe fixed the date for her conversion ceremony to coincide with the April service. Details of the chapel mass were agreed between Canon Donald Gray, the Speaker's chaplain, and Father Michael Seed, the cathderal priest who prepared Miss Widdecombe for conversion and who conducted yesterday's services.

Her sponsors were three Catholic MPs, John Patten, the education secretary, David Alton, Liberal Democrat for Mossley Hill, and Julian Brazier, Conservative for Canterbury. One of the lessons at the *High Mass was read by John* Gummer, the agriculture minister, who left the synod but not the Anglican church after the ordination vote.

Canon Malcolm Widdecombe, the minister's brother who is a parish priest in Bristol, led the prayers. "I understand why she left, but that is not my way," he said. "I am strongly against the ordination of women but I intend to stay inside the Church of England and be as big of a nuisance as I can on this."

Photograph, page 1
Diary, page 20



Working together: Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral towers over Canon Stoker

Roman Catholics query motives of likely converts

■ Happy coexistence between Roman Catholics and Anglicans on Merseyside is threatened by the prospect of defections

BY JAMES LANDALE

ROMAN Catholics have *mixed feelings at the prospect* of thousands of Anglicans joining their church.

A number from parishes in Liverpool, while extending a welcoming hand, cautioned against accepting converts motivated solely by opposition to the ordination of women.

The 36 Catholic bishops of England and Wales today end a four-day meeting at which they have been discussing their response to the many requests from Anglicans wishing to join the Catholic church: the Vatican says that the Roman Catholic Church "has answered positively" requests for meetings from those Anglicans opposed to the ordination of women priests.

Canon Leo Stoker, of St Patrick's parish church in Toxteth, said that the city's Catholics would "welcome and warmly embrace" anyone *who wished to join the church.* "I am quite happy if they [the Anglicans] want to become members of the church," he said. "If people wish to become members they will be treated like anyone else." However, he said it would be wrong to become a Catholic "just because a person opposed the ordination of women."

Canon Stoker said that Liverpool's 500,000-strong Catholic community coexisted "very happily" with the Anglican community. Every Whitsun, the Most Rev Derek Worlock and the Right Rev David Sheppard, the Catholic Archbishop and Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, held a "walk of witness" between the city's two cathedrals. Canon Stoker said: "The general attitude is to walk and work together."

Sabina Mulhearn, a retired teacher who worships at the St Thomas More church in Aigburth, said people should only become Catholics on theological and doctrinal grounds. "I do not think that the ordination of women is a good enough reason for them to become Catholics." She said that conversion should be individual and not *en masse.* "If they (the Anglicans) are really convinced now, why weren't they convinced before?" she wanted to know.

Richard Donovan, another retired teacher who has worshipped at the Metropolitan Cathedral for four years, welcomed the potential converts and said that the church was there for everyone. "The Catholic church was always a bit rigid," he said. "It would be good to open it up to new traditions and enrich the church."

He added, however: "The question is, 'Why are they coming? What are their reasons?' I think they probably have lots of chips on their shoulders about a lot of other things and the ordination of women was just the last straw."

Patricia Gornell, a part-time clerk at Littlewoods, who worships at the Blessed Sacrament Shrine in the city, said it would be good if the Anglicans joined. "We all worship the same God, don't we?"

Jimmy Howlin, 52, the assistant manager of the Irish Centre in the city, said that Liverpool's Irish Catholic community would not oppose any Anglicans joining the church. "I wouldn't turn anyone away from our church." However, he warned against the Anglicans bringing too many of their own rites. "As long as they don't knock our own traditions," he said. "But we still have to meet them half way."

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MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Preaching to the unconvertible

Conversions to the Roman Catholic Church so frequently occur moments before the administration of the last rites, and death, that it was a novelty to attend a ceremony whose principal worshipper seemed in the best of health and with a promising ministerial career ahead of her.

But then yesterday was an unusual day for a parliamentary sketchwriter, starting with a Foreign Office lunch and ending with a Catholic conversion.

It was over the *Roast Saddle of Lamb coated with Garlic and Herbs, Béarnaise Sauce, Potato and Parsnip Bake and Seasonal Vegetables* that the name of Ann Widdecombe MP was first invoked. In the exotic surroundings of Lancaster House and in the presence of undoubtedly the most beautiful foreign minister in the world, Her Excellency Noemi Salf de Rubio of Colombia, and some oil prospectors, I was advised by minister of state Tristan Garel-Jones that the reception of Miss Widdecombe into the Roman Catholic Church at a ceremony in the Commons crypt later that day was to be reported, if at all, "without mockery".

"Ann's an exceptional woman, take her seriously," said Garel-Jones, the Colombian foreign minister *indicating sympathetic* attention. "I was among the first to spot her. I chose her as my parliamentary private secretary. Now she's doing well as a social security minister. Her religious beliefs are deeply held, her doubts about the ordination of women sincere. Her conversion is to be treated with the utmost reverence."

I quote Garel-Jones because his point of view deserves stating; and it is true that Miss Widdecombe is doing well at the dispatch box. Further, her presence at the conversion ceremony yesterday, looking both nervous and excited, suggested utter personal sincerity. We do not mock these things.

But there exists the most ghastly dissonance between Christian witness and the House of Commons. You would have to have the hide of a rhinoceros not to feel that dissonance, as you sniff the incense to the faint boom of Big Ben in the MPs' crypt chapel, an atrocious den conceived in some kind of a limbo between fake Gothic and Byzantine revival and decorated like a cheap Russian Orthodox Christmas card.

You would have to have a heart of stone not to be dismayed at the sight of MPs whom for 15 years you have heard twisting words, traducing facts and abusing each other in the Chamber a hundred yards away, and whom you know have every intention to carrying on doing so.

The lessons were read by the agriculture minister, John Gummer, and Julian Brazier, (C, Canterbury) a backbencher more often heard on military matters. A hymn against abortion was sung by a soloist, then we all sang Bunyan's *To be a pilgrim*, written in prison. Expensively suited MPs intoned the *promise to fight* with giants, come wind, come weather. "Hobgoblin nor foul fiend/Can daunt his spirit."

In the rearmost pew sat an MP not immediately identifiable as a hobgoblin or foul fiend, Robert Hughes (C, Harrow W). Hughes is a government whip. He had a bleeper with him. His job was to let the priest know if there were a division in the Chamber. It had been agreed that if that happened, worshippers could abandon this celebration of Miss Widdecombe's conversion, which included Mass, to vote.

What do these people *really* believe? I confess that still, after all this time, I do not know.

هكذا من الأصل

Prison Reform Trust attack on American company's record casts shadow over privatisation

Firm awarded jail contract is accused of failing inmates

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

A prison board executive is to investigate allegations against a firm that is to run Britain's second private jail

A COMPANY forming part of the consortium that will run Britain's second privatised jail is criticised today over its record in the United States, including claims that it failed to provide promised education for prisoners.

The complaints about Corrections Corporation of America include a reference to a court finding that a woman prisoner died because of human error on the part of one of its employees. They will fuel the growing concern among opposition MPs and penal reform groups about the government's prison privatisation programme.

Home Office ministers have already been embarrassed by a series of escapes this month since Group 4 started running the country's first private prison escort service. The company, which has provided cartoonists and comedians with a field day, has been ordered to improve its operations. Its running of escort services in Humberside and the East Midlands is reviewed monthly.



Johnson: "Technology will cut costs"

Corrections Corporation of America is part of a consortium, United Kingdom Detentions Services Ltd, which also includes John Mowlem and Sir Robert McAlpine. It won the contract to manage Blakenhurst prison at Redditch, Hereford and Worcester, which is due to open next month.

The Prison Reform Trust, which opposes the principle of privatisation, says the corporation paid the family of a woman who died while in its custody $100,000 (£65,000) after originally offering $10,000. In 1988, a court ruled that the woman prisoner at Silverdale, Chattanooga, Tennessee, died due to human error. The company's guards left Rosalyn Bradford, who was suffering from a tubal pregnancy, screaming in her cell for 18 hours before taking her to hospital.

The trust also says that two of the firm's operations in Texas were criticised by state auditors because the promised educational and vocational services were not provided and thousands of dollars in wages were being saved by the company because it did not take on the necessary staff.

According to the trust, the Texas state prisons board said that the prisons had failed miserably and were simply warehousing inmates. The company claimed the situation was due to teething troubles.

Stephen Shaw of the trust said: "The prison service stated that the background of CCA had been fully investigated. Nevertheless, our evidence raises some serious questions which the Home Office must answer if the public is to have confidence in CCA in particular and the prison privatisation programme in general."

Officials from the Home Office were aware of some of the allegations made against the firm, which were uncovered as part of the evaluation process of bids to run Blakenhurst. But Derek Lewis, director-general of the prison service, has ordered a further enquiry into claims made against it.

Bill Bentley, a former Shell oil company executive, who is now a non-executive director of the English prison board, is preparing to fly to the United States to investigate allegations concerning one of the company's directors. The Home Office has hired an American lawyer to help him with the enquiry into claims that a corporation director has been the subject of legal action over maltreatment of inmates while he was running prisons in Arkansas.

United Kingdom Detentions Services said that T. Don Hutto, head of overseas projects with the corporation, had been appointed director of corrections in Arkansas in 1971 to improve the state's prisons.

The spokesman said he had "inherited" the injunctions and that his name was put on them because in American law a name had to be on them, even though the allegations were against the state.

CCA's project director in charge of setting up Blakenhurst is Sharon Johnson, a former governor of Davidson County Detention Facility, Tennessee. She told a recent BBC radio *File on Four* programme that modern technology would be used to cut staff costs at the prison.

More closed circuit television cameras would be used than originally envisaged, to reduce the number of people keeping watch. This had the added advantage of cutting boring jobs, which made staff more enthusiastic, she said.

Letters, page 21



Flashback to April 1990: the scene at Strangeways when police were injured

Seven groups offer to run Strangeways

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

ALL BIDS are now in for the first contract to take over the operation of an established British prison.

The tenders to run Strangeways in Manchester, undergoing a £63 million refurbishment after the worst riot in British penal history, will be considered next month. In addition to the following firms, the prison service has also submitted a bid.

Group 4 Remand Services Ltd: won the contract to run the Wolds remand prison on Humberside. Charles Erickson, a senior Home Office official in the unit, has joined the firm. A linked company, Group 4 Court Services, has been at the centre of controversy since starting to run the first privatised prison escort service earlier this month. Seven escapes and the late arrival of defendants at courts have forced ministers on to the defensive over the privatisation programme.

United Kingdom Detention Services: begins running Blakenhurst prison at Redditch, Hereford and Worcester, next month. It is the first prison holding sentenced, remand and convicted prisoners to be privatised.

Mancare: a UK subsidiary of the French Sodexho company. Mancare is based at Warrington, Cheshire and has recruited David Sherwood from the Home Office's remand contract unit. Mr Sherwood's case is to be referred to the Cabinet Office to prevent conflicts of interest and stop companies gaining an unfair advantage over competitors.

Securicor Ltd: Securicor Custodial Services set up in 1991. It operated at Harmondsworth detention centre until it lost the contract to Group 4 in 1988.

Custodial and Escorts Services Ltd: a key operator in the UK security market. Held the contract to operate security at Wimbledon championships.

Premier Prison Services: formed last July, offers to provide "security with understanding". Serco manages government and industrial sites including the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System at Fylingdales Moor, North Yorkshire.

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Aquarium breathes life into Natural History Museum

BY NICHOLAS WATT

■ *An American-style walk-through aquarium in the heart of London is bound to add to the pressures on London zoo*

EUROPE'S most ambitious walk-through aquarium is planned for the Natural History Museum after London zoo turned down the project last week, it was announced yesterday.

The broadcaster Sir David Attenborough is teaming up with the museum for the £35 million project, which will allow people to stand within inches of hundreds of fish.

Sir David, who was yesterday appointed to the board of the developers New Zoo Developments (NZD), said the aquarium would present a dazzling panorama of the natural world. "It will be full of movement, excitement and colour," he said.

The aquarium, the size of a football pitch and several storeys high, will contain hundreds of species of fish, jellyfish and living corals. Sir David said: "People will stand in front of the aquarium spellbound. A stream will start on the top floor — with frogs on the bank — and will end with a waterfall a few storeys down.

"An aquarium is free of a lot of the moral and aesthetic problems people feel with caged animals. People will see courtship, fish swimming in big shoals, and grooming behaviour with shrimps climbing inside the gills of bigger fish."

Sir David, who has filmed the underwater world for his television programmes, added that the aquarium would be better than his experiences of scuba-diving. "For a start, you won't have to worry about sharks. The aquarium is the *cream of the sea world* and you won't have to swim for ages to see the fish."



Sir David: "Aquarium is the cream of sea world"

The project, which is still subject to negotiations between the consortium and the museum, will include a revolutionary multi-dimensional wildlife cinema. Peter Chermayeff, the American architect who has drawn up similar schemes around the world, will arrive in Britain this week to examine the site.

David Laing, chairman of NZD, which is backed by City banks, said of the project: "NZD was established to promote leisure concepts which educate and facilitate a broad understanding and enjoyment of science. Sir David, who has devoted his professional life to natural history, will be an important member of our board."

The Natural History Museum yesterday welcomed the project. Neil Chalmers, its director, said: "We are very excited. We are holding preliminary talks and there is much to do to establish how the aquarium will be built."

The development is bound to increase the rivalry between London zoo and the museum, which wants to liven its exhibits. A spokeswoman for the museum, which has stood on its 14-acre South Kensington site in London for 110 years, said: "This scheme has the potential to represent our plans of taking natural history to the people."

But Sir David played down any talk of rivalry. "The era of the zoo is not over. In a sense, our project is a development of the zoo. But I am sorry that the zoo decided the aquarium was not for them."

Climbers mark conquest of Everest

BY RONALD FAUX

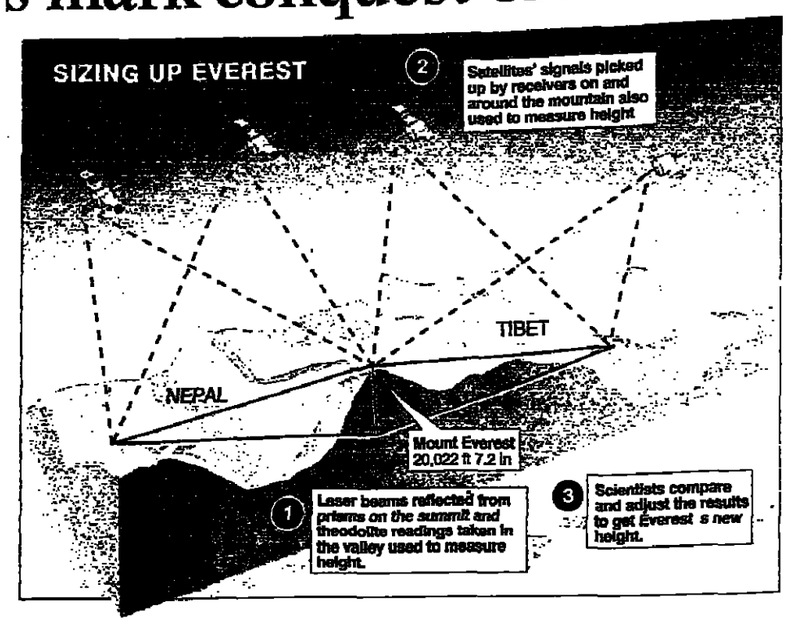
THE conquest of Everest by a British expedition 40 years ago is to be celebrated next month. Mountaineers made famous by the world's highest summit will be in London for a series of lectures, reunions and exhibitions to raise funds for the organisation that the historic first ascent spawned. The Mount Everest Foundation has since provided £500,000 to support 900 mountaineering and scientific expeditions.

Everest, which has just been calculated as 6ft 7in lower than its official height of 29,028ft, straddles the borders of Tibet and Nepal. But it is traditionally regarded as a "British" mountain because of the effort and anguish that Britons have suffered in trying to reach the summit.

The 1953 expedition was the ninth from Britain to survey or attempt the mountain. A string of brave attempts in the 1920s and 1930s, the dramatic disappearance of Mallory and Irvine in 1924, so close to the top, and in more recent times of Boardman and Tasker on the northeast ridge, have consolidated this historic link between Britain and Everest.

It was on May 29, 1953, that Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay planted the British and Nepalese flags on the summit, clinching the ultimate climbing success for the assault led by a soldier, John Hunt.

The first to learn of the achievement was George Lowe, who handed Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing hot soup and oxygen when they returned to South Col. There was nothing solemn or resounding about Hillary's announcement of the triumph. The lanky New Zealander grinned at Lowe and said: "Well, George, we knocked the bastard off."



The news was smuggled back to Britain in a coded report to *The Times* and announced to the world on the day of the Queen's coronation.

John Hunt, now Lord Hunt of Llanfair Waterdine, likens the consequent eagerness to reach the highest point on earth to a gold rush. Every ridge and face of the mountain has been climbed, hundreds of climbers have stood on the summit and each year 40 to 50 expeditions attempt the climb. Thousands of tourists make their way up the litter-strewn track to the old base camp, now a monumental rubbish dump.

A gloomy picture, but does it detract from the original achievement? Lord Hunt thinks not, for it spurred an astonishing number and diversity of expeditions that have taken men and women to the most inaccessible areas of the earth and beyond into space.

In recent years, the climbing trend has been towards difficult ascents of new routes on high mountains, often without supplementary oxygen and in small teams. Among the outstanding successes have been the climbs of Broad Peak, Kangchenjunga and Dhaulagiri. Most have had support from the Mount Everest Foundation.

The celebrations of the first ascent begin on May 24 with a lecture at the Royal Geographical Society in London with speakers including Lord Hunt and Sir Edmund Hillary. The introduction will be by Chris Bonington, the mountaineer and explorer who reached the summit of Everest at the age of 50. Two more lectures on May 26 will be attended by the Queen, the Princess Royal and the Duke of Kent.

Members of the climbing team will be reunited on the anniversary in North Wales, where they trained and where their fading signatures are on the ceiling of the bar at Pen-y-gwryd hotel.

Other celebrations include an exhibition of equipment, clothing, books, letters and diaries from the 1953 expedition organised by the Mount Everest Foundation at the Royal Geographical Society. The society will also host an exhibition of photographs by Alfred Gregory, taken on the 1953 exhibition, and of Everest paintings by the Scots artist Lincoln Rowe.

Leading article, page 21

Why man moves the mountain

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SOME of the world's most famous mountains might be taller or shorter than records state. The possibility has emerged from a mapping expedition to Everest, using satellite and laser ranging equipment, which calculated it is 6ft 7in (2.03m) lower than official figures.

British experts say they are not surprised by the discrepancy. Ross Christie, manager of research and development at the Ordnance Survey in Southampton, Hampshire, said yesterday that the determination of mountain heights depended on the way they were measured.

Stuart Trigg, a colleague, said other factors could cause variations. They included calculations to work out the Earth's shape and where scientists decided sea level was.

Heights in Britain are based on sea levels at Newlyn, Cornwall, measured in the 1920s. Recent calculations show the sea has risen by 6ins since then. Even if different methods of measuring are ignored, the change means that the true heights of Britain's mountains are 6ins shorter than records show.

The new measurements of Everest were made by an Italian and Chinese team that set up scientific camps on each side of the mountain. The researchers claim to have determined the height to within 39cm (about 15in).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Disabled driver wins parking row

A businessman who lost part of a leg in an accident 30 years ago, and who was told he was not disabled enough to have his orange parking badge renewed, is to receive the permit after all.

Michael Newell, 52, an office equipment engineer from Cullompton, Devon, whose car is vital to him, was given the permit after assessment by an occupational therapist.

A spokesman for Devon County Council social services department said the decision not to renew the permit was made in line with tighter national regulations.

Lost at sea

Hopes faded yesterday for two fishermen washed overboard in the Irish Sea. John Elliott, of Bushmills, co. Antrim and Sean Aston, son-in-law of the vessel's skipper, from Portavogie, co. Down, were swept away in a gale.

Death remands

Lee Brown, 25, and Joanna Plummer, 21, from southeast London, were remanded in custody by magistrates at Tower Bridge charged with the unlawful killing of Nancy Joyce, 82, in a road accident last week.

Blackmail jail

A former Bristol Rovers footballer, Stephen Tobin, 28, of Swindon, Wiltshire, was jailed for 18 months at Bristol for trying to blackmail Brian Hillier, former chairman of Swindon Town Football Club.

Lamb disease

Up to 30 people may have been affected by cryptosporidiosis, a disease contracted from sheep, after hugging lambs at a farm open day in Berkshire. Four people were admitted to hospital with flu-like symptoms.

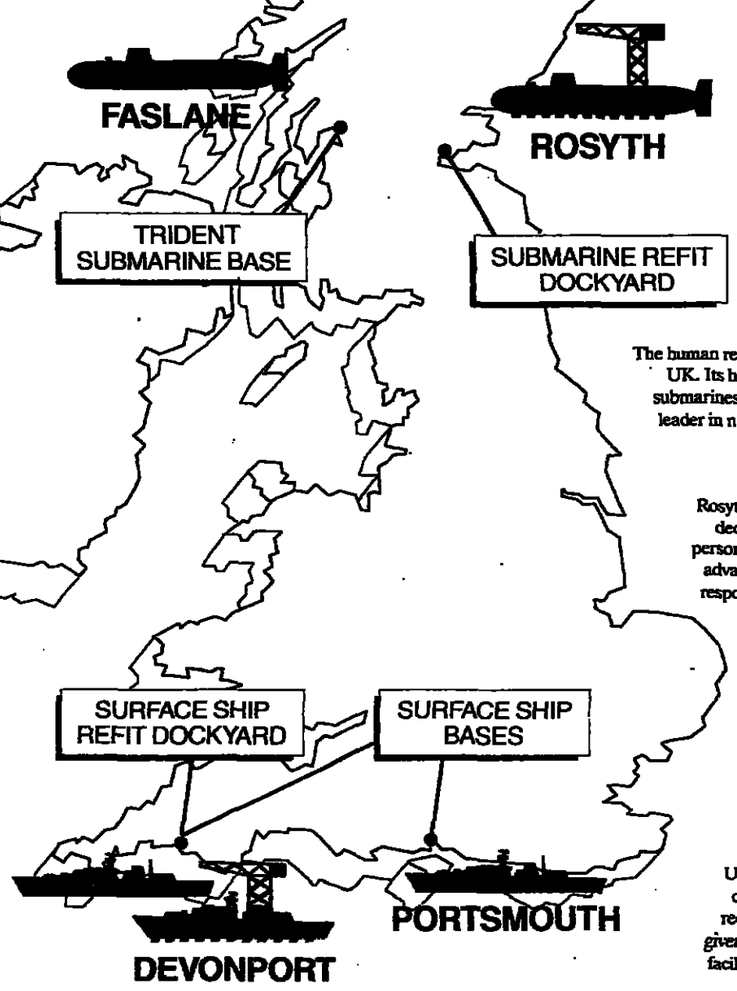
Cash crop

Bill Wood, an enterprising headmaster, raised £2,000 for Choppington First School, Northumberland, by selling turf from a bumpy playing field to a landscape gardener. A farming governor promised to reseed it free.

Back of a lorry

Police were called to a street in Grays, Essex, to arrest seven suspected illegal immigrants who they believe got lost after being dropped from a lorry.

THE LOGICAL LOCATION FOR TRIDENT



In 1985, when Rosyth Royal Dockyard was selected as the home for Trident submarine refitting, it was considered the logical choice. Now, as the Government decides whether to retain submarine refitting at Rosyth, the argument is still clear cut.

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Quite simply, Rosyth represents the best value for money for the nation and the taxpayer. With its Trident emergency dock already complete and its well laid out facilities, Rosyth is one of the most cost effective defence contractors in the country. Placing the submarine refitting facility at Rosyth is a low risk capital investment.

Unrivalled Experience

The human resources available at Rosyth are unrivalled anywhere in the UK. Its highly skilled workforce has 25 years experience of refitting submarines from Britain's Polaris fleet. Rosyth is renowned as a clear leader in nuclear refit techniques and systems and has internationally accredited quality standards.

Strategic Advantage

Rosyth is close to Faslane – which will remain the Royal Navy's dedicated submarine base. This enables efficient exchange of personnel and materials and gives Rosyth an important strategic advantage. As Scotland's largest industrial employer, Rosyth is responsible for training many young apprentices and maintains an experienced workforce right on Faslane's doorstep.

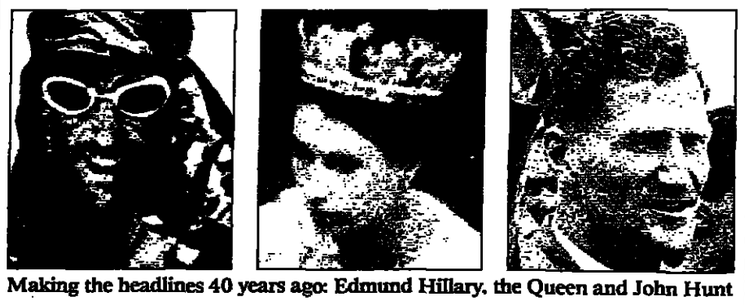
There are similarly sound reasons for continuing to concentrate most of the Royal Navy's surface fleet refitting requirements at Devonport. This facility is close to the Navy's surface ship bases at Portsmouth and Devonport, its workforce is skilled and experienced in surface ship refitting and it is already equipped to handle the Navy's surface fleet. Specialisation at each location provides the Navy and the taxpayers with the best solution.

Nuclear Safety

Unlike other dockyards, Rosyth is several miles from major centres of population. It has an excellent safety record and recently received the highest accreditation on nuclear safety given by the Ministry of Defence to date. As a fully integrated facility for refitting and decommissioning nuclear submarines, Rosyth has to be the logical location for Trident.

ROSYTH
ROYAL DOCKYARD
30 years in nuclear submarine refitting

THE TIMES / MOUNT EVEREST FOUNDATION READER EVENT



Making the headlines 40 years ago: Edmund Hillary, the Queen and John Hunt

Crowning glory

The excitement that surrounded the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953 was crowned by the announcement that mighty Mount Everest had been conquered for the first time — by a British team.

The news was released to the world by *The Times*, whose reporter James Morris took part in the long and hazardous climb.

To celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the event that at the time caused every man, woman and child in Britain to glow in the glory of such a magnificent achievement, *The Times*, in association with the Mount Everest Foundation is inviting readers to a commorative lecture — The Ascent of Everest — to be held on Wednesday May 26 at the the headquarters of the Royal Geographical Society in Kensington Gore, west London. The event will start at noon.



Lord Hunt, the leader of the expedition, his colleague Sir Edmund Hillary — who reached the top of Everest with Sherpa Tensing — and other members of the team will get together again and retell the story of the dramatic climb. Chris Bonington, will introduce this memorable occasion.

Times readers are invited to attend this event, tickets for which cost £20. We must advise, however, that places are limited and that the allocation of tickets must be on a first come, first served basis. All unsuccessful applicants are assured that their remittance will be refunded.

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Chris Bonington

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Disabled driver wins parking row

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Death remanded

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Blackmail [illegible]

A former Br[illegible] Fuller, Stockbroker [illegible] Surrey, Wiltshire [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

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Back of a [illegible]

TION READER EVE



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New openness in Whitehall has not checked disquiet about staff taking lucrative private jobs

Civil servants' move troubles Sir Robin

BY MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

CIVIL servants who exploit their knowledge of Whitehall to secure lucrative jobs in the private sector are a cause for concern, Sir Robin Butler, secretary of the cabinet and head of the home civil service, has admitted.

In an interview with *The Times*, Sir Robin said it was vital for the integrity of the civil service that "people should not be influenced while they are in a particular job by thinking they can favour those who might give them another position afterwards".

At the same time, Sir Robin said, there would be a considerable problem if civil servants retiring at 60 or earlier were not able to legitimately use their experience and abilities in the private sector. "It is all a question of striking the right balance."

He dismissed allegations that the civil service's tradition of impartiality had been corrupted by 14 years of Conservative rule. "Some people think that impartiality must be corrupted by a long period of Conservative government, and therefore look for evidence of it. But, frankly, a lot of the evidence that has been cited has been thin or non-existent."

Although his appointment as standard bearer for the new policy of open government has been likened by sceptics to asking a Trappist monk to host a television chat show, Sir Robin is adamant that the initiative is authentic.

"I am not at all inclined to reveal the things that ministers say to me. But I do not think that is what open government means. So, in the sense of preserving the confidences of ministers, I am still pretty closed. But I have no difficulty about a government wanting to talk freely about the policy considerations that underlined its decisions."

In the three decades since he joined the mandarin elite, the social composition of the senior civil service has changed out of all recognition. "In that respect, the civil service is demonstrably more open. The intake to the civil service now comes from a very much wider group of universities and former polytechnics.

"If you look at the fast stream, about 40 per cent come from Oxbridge, whereas at the time I entered it was about 75 per cent. But I do not regard reducing the number of Oxbridge entrants as a good thing in itself. What is important is to get people trying from the widest possible field, and not being put off because they think that the civil service is an Oxbridge preserve."

In spite of recent claims that there is "a hole at the centre of government", Sir Robin backed the system of cabinet government. When a government "goes through a rocky period, as the government did over the exchange-rate mechanism, the pit closures and the recession, everyone involved must expect their role to be put under scrutiny and share some of the criticism. But I believe that the central machinery of government continues to work well."

During a speech yesterday at the conference of the Political Studies Association at Leicester University, Sir Robin said it was impossible to say where the present civil service reforms might end. "The idea of the civil service as a comfortable and secure sinecure has gone," he said. But it would be a travesty if that were replaced "by the image of a service in which only the bottom line mattered", he added.

SIMON WALKER



Cause for concern: Sir Robin Butler says civil servants must maintain Whitehall's impartiality in the face of lobbying for contracts

Mackay reforms judges' selection

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor outlined reforms yesterday to modernise the way judges were appointed and boost the numbers of women, which he admitted were "lower than I would wish".

Issuing a strong plea for more women, particularly solicitors, to put themselves forward for judicial posts, Lord Mackay of Clashfern said he would consider introducing more sharply defined job descriptions. He also emphasised that the judicial selection system now depended on people applying rather than being invited, as in the past. Appointment did not depend on any one person's views about an individual.

"There is no scope for a single individual to block the appointment of a given individual candidate," he told more than a hundred members of the Association of Women Solicitors in London.

But Lord Mackay, who was responding to regularly voiced criticisms of the judicial appointments system, rejected "fast-tracking" women by lowering the age for appointment to judicial posts.

A "quick fix" might be tempting to boost numbers of women and solicitors but it was important to "preserve the level of experience of both the law and of life in general which is brought to the bench," he said. "As it is, in exceptional cases assistant recordership appointments" (the first judicial rung) are made to people from the age of 36 or 37."

Lord Mackay also rejected the widely floated proposal for a Judicial Appointments Commission in place of his personal responsibility for appointments. A commission would lead to lobbying in the appointments process, and he was best placed to assess candidates.

But Lord Mackay conceded that the numbers of women judges were "lower than I would wish. Women represent 11.5 per cent of assistant recorders, 4.7 per cent of recorders and 5 per cent of circuit judges."

Urging women to come forward, he outlined ways in which the system was being improved. Candidates for judicial appointment should receive a "frank appraisal" from officials on how they were viewed. "No one need feel inhibited about asking."

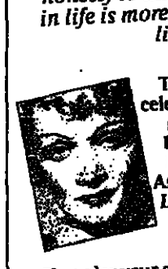
Lord Mackay hinted that when the ten new High Court judges are appointed, which were recently approved by the Treasury, a solicitor might be among them. To date, no solicitor has been appointed to the High Court bench although it is two years since the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 opened up higher judicial appointments to solicitors.

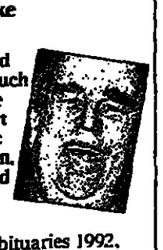
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Monetary union survives upheaval

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN will come under renewed pressure from its European partners to rejoin the exchange-rate mechanism and sign up to monetary union, an all-party group of MPs reported yesterday.

Much of the debate on the Maastricht bill has taken place against the background of the belief among MPs — shared by the prime minister — that the economic convulsions inside the EC have postponed indefinitely hard choices about monetary union.

Mr Major, in a number of speeches over the next few days, will give voice to this assessment by advancing a new agenda for the Community based not on the integrationist drive of recent years, but a more outward, free-trading approach. However, the Tory-dominated Treasury select committee yesterday cautioned against the idea that a single currency and a European central bank are fading dreams for many continental leaders.

The committee visited Paris, Bonn and Madrid while drawing up its report on the prospects for monetary union. It said that the three-stage Delors plan retained a strong following on the Continent despite the partial collapse of the ERM. However, the MPs added that the pace of change was being questioned.

"It is important not to underestimate the strength and depth of commitment to monetary union among the politicians elsewhere in the Community. If the Maastricht treaty does not come into force, there appears to be a possibility that a significant number of Community countries will seek to create an alternative institutional framework to pave the way for monetary union analogous to that envisaged in the treaty.

"There is also a strong belief elsewhere in the Community that the United Kingdom would, at some stage, wish to participate in the monetary union so established ... If the Maastricht treaty does not come into force, prospects for monetary union, while undoubtedly diminished, will not disappear."

However, the MPs also concluded that the quest for a single currency has been hampered by the turmoil in the ERM and the impact of a Community-wide recession. "The economic slowdown in Europe has led to the realism of the timetable for monetary union in the Maastricht treaty (which envisages completion no later than 1999) being called into question," they said.

Newbury slip-up

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

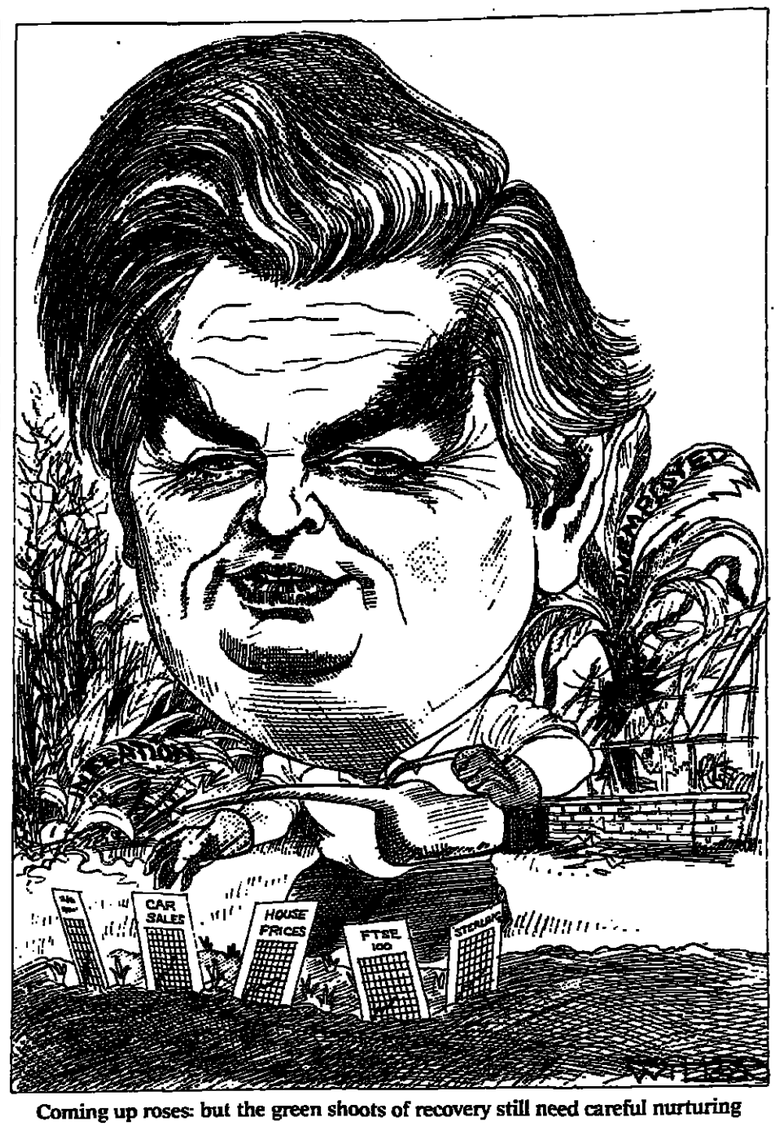
UNDER pressure over the Budget announcement of VAT on domestic fuel, Julian Davidson, the Tory contender in the Newbury by-election, wobbled badly yesterday.

Although the Liberal Democrat campaign team has failed so far to endow the issue with the same status as the poll tax in the Eastbourne and Ribble Valley by-elections, it is still arousing some anxiety among west Berkshire voters.

"I would certainly discourage very strongly any further extension of VAT," Mr Davidson told journalists yesterday. But he hurriedly admitted, with a little nudging from his campaign minder, Gerry Malone, that he supported VAT on domestic fuel because of the need to cut government borrowing.

The Liberal Democrats' David Rendel is also being forced to fight every inch of the way to erode the Conservatives' 12,357 majority. Disillusionment with politicians of all colours is a recurring theme.

Nominations close today with the prospect of at least ten fringe candidates standing, complicating predictions on the outcome in what is essentially a two-horse race.



Coming up roses: but the green shoots of recovery still need careful nurturing

Lamont's green shoots flourish in economic spring

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The real political story this month has been the removal of any lingering doubts about the end of the recession. Ministers can now talk bullishly about the outlook without blushing. No wonder John Major is planning two speeches on the economy over the next week.

Norman Lamont turns out to have been right about green shoots: not before time, many will no doubt say. The latest figures nonetheless suggest that the recession *did* bottom out last summer. The change in trend was initially obscured by the blow to confidence of withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism in mid-September. But now, reinforced by the devaluation and fall in interest rates, recovery is clearly under way.

The evidence is impressive: manufacturing output is at its highest for 18 months, retail sales are above last year's levels and the housing market is showing signs of life. Ministers are restraining their language. They privately believe recovery is already stronger than forecast in the March Budget. The immediate risk is paradoxically that the pendulum will swing too far, that relief at the upturn from a low base will produce exaggerated expectations. Recovery still has some way to run before unemployment stops rising.

The economic and electoral cycles should be more in synch than last year and the British election is likely to occur within six months of the next American presidential election.

The Tories cannot assume that steady growth from now on will guarantee re-election. At least two qualifications are needed. First, inflation has not disappeared. Devaluation is not without costs as recent producer price figures have shown. There is no threat of an immediate acceleration of prices but the underlying inflation rate remains near the top of the Treasury's target range. Second, public borrowing is very high and will require unpopular tax rises and spending squeezes. So both monetary and fiscal policy are more likely to be tightened than eased.

The end of the recession has also opened a debate about the nature of recovery. Ministers cannot simply close the chapter on the past couple of years and say that everything is now fine again. Damage has been done.

Both main parties are now fighting on the same ground of the state of manufacturing and competitiveness. Mr Major has shifted the emphasis compared with the 1980s by supporting increased funds for export credits and persuading the Treasury to agree to a relaxation of controls on joint public/private sector projects. Both parties are talking about improving training opportunities and further education. Several ministers are arguing that the government needs to go onto the offensive now in presenting a more coherent programme for recovery.

Gordon Brown has similarly emphasised these structural questions, though he has yet to flesh out his general ideas. He is rightly cautious about making immediate macro-economic commitments, and the left-wing MPs who have publicly criticised him are wrong to press for a larger expansionary package now. The level of public borrowing does matter, and any short-term proposals to stimulate the economy will soon look out-of-date.

What is happening is a necessary pre-condition for a recovery in the government's political fortunes, but it is not sufficient on its own. The argument will now turn to whether growth can be sustained and the state of British industry and its workforce.

PETER RIDDELL

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Labour battles to hold high ground

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY



ON either side of the Derwent valley lie Matlock's claims to fame and infamy. From the Heights of Abraham beauty spot, visitors gaze towards the glowering Gothic home of Derbyshire county council, once branded the Heights of Extravagance.

According to the Tory county council election campaign message, the Labour incumbents of county hall have squandered millions in their 12-year reign. The claim will need to carry enormous weight with voters on May 6 to loosen Labour's hold on 52 of the 84 council seats.

In spite of its comfortable electoral position, however, Labour is recovering from a turbulent period since the 1989 elections. David Bookbinder, the group's former leader, took the council through a punishing "capping" ordeal, to the House of Lords with a costly libel action, and attracted charges of failing to operate a police force to basic standards of efficiency.

Martin Doughty, who succeeded the colourful Mr Bookbinder last year, has quickly developed a more phlegmatic, moderate and open style. He shares his predecessor's conviction that lack of money is the root of most evils but has steered a course between his party's spending desires and budgetary constraints.

All council departments have drawn up a 5 per cent cost-cutting programme, resulting in a £37 million saving and the loss of some 1,200 council jobs. "I think we have persuaded the people of Derbyshire that we are not profligate. But that will not stop the opposition telling the public we are," Mr Doughty said.

The Tory opposition group bases its election hopes on what it perceives as public dissatisfaction with education, highway maintenance and shortage of police. "We will be talking about the local administration of Derbyshire, and not the national situation," John Morgan-Owen, the leader of the 25-strong Tory group, said. The Tories are aware, however, of the danger of a backlash as a result of several unpopular government policies.

A wave of confidence has swept through the Liberal Democrats, who believe they can double their four seats by trading on public dissatisfaction with local and national single-party domination.

The county's widely publicised clashes with government over spending have left a mark on the public and Labour is aware that policing remains its Achilles heal in terms of voters' perception.

In other parts of the country, the public might list crime as a prime concern; in Derbyshire, many refer to a problem of policing, a subtle change of phrase not lost on Mr Doughty. "There may be a perception based on out-dated, and often inaccurate information. There isn't a problem with policing that is any different from anywhere else."

If the council's make-up is to change significantly, and none of the parties expects so, it is likely to be Derby that springs surprises. With 11 Tory county councillors and nine Labour, some of the city seats are seen as the most open battlegrounds. Heavy job losses at Rolls Royce and doubts over the future of ABBT, formerly BREL, the locomotive works, may prove influential factors.



Bookbinder: led party through tough times

Also, on May 17, the Local Government Commission will announce the options for changing the structure of ten councils, including Derbyshire, which faces being split into two, three or four authorities.

In Derby the Tories view the prospect of ridding the city of the influence of county hall with such glee that they are reported to have instructed city candidates to pledge support for the creation of new unitary authorities.

It seems unlikely that their interest in the issue will extend to the electorate. "The only good thing about change is that it will change again," one retired council worker said.

هكذا من الاصل

Public opinion comes to federal agents' rescue in siege aftermath

White House and FBI clash over mysteries of Waco

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WACO

■ **Evidence of child abuse at the compound is said to abound. Despite agents' rejection of this, the issue will be central to any enquiry**

AS investigators search the embers of what was once the Branch Davidian cult's compound outside Waco, the key questions are why the FBI decided, after 51 days of negotiations, to end the siege using tanks and tear gas and what caused the fire in which more than 80 cult members died.

Yesterday the White House and the FBI offered divergent explanations as to what prompted the decision to deploy aggressive and, some say, provocative tactics. President Clinton and Janet Reno, the attorney-general, have both insisted that David Koresh, the cult leader, was systematically abusing children inside the compound and that this triggered the decision to try to end the stand-off. George Stephanopoulos, the White House communications director, said yesterday: "We have mountains of evidence showing that there was child abuse going on in that compound over a long period of time". On Tuesday, Mr Clinton appeared to point blame towards Ms Reno when he said that, during his last briefing on Sunday night, she had laid emphasis on the allegations of child abuse.

However, the FBI agent in overall command of the operation, Jeff Jamar, said yesterday: "There was nothing in any information coming out in recent days that there was a greater threat to the children, other than disease and general conditions inside the compound." An FBI spokesman, Bob Ricks, said fears of child abuse were not "the pushing reason or the guiding reason" behind the use of more forceful methods.

The FBI director, William Sessions, whose relations with the administration are known to be tense, has also contradicted the assertion that child abuse was the single most important factor in the decision. No specific evidence has been produced to back the allegations of child abuse, and child welfare workers who examined the 21 children released before the fire say there is no evidence they were molested.

FBI officials say the decision to send in the armoured vehicles was prompted by indications that David Koresh was becoming increasingly violent and erratic although the suicidal tendencies of the group had long been known and the mood swings of the cult leader have often been emphasised.

Perhaps the real reason for the ultimately disastrous change of tactics lies in remarks made by FBI officials indicating that the government negotiating team had simply become exhausted and frustrated by the protracted negotiations.

Anonymous federal officials have confirmed that during the seven weeks of negotiations agents slipped electronic listening devices into the compound inside supplies. Yesterday the *Dallas Morning News* quoted FBI sources saying that agents had heard cult members issuing instructions to light fires around the building, apparently reinforcing the official claim that the fire was a mass suicide masterminded by Koresh.

But some of the nine survivors insist that the cult had no suicide pact and that they were shocked and terrified when fire swept through the building. The cult members, most of whom are being held in a Waco jail as material witnesses, say that the authorities' action had made it harder to escape the fire, which they claim was started by the FBI. The FBI claims to have videotaped evidence proving that the blaze was started in various parts of the building by the cult members themselves.

An undercover agent who left the compound on the morning of the raid reported that Koresh had said: "Neither ATF [bureau of alcohol, tobacco and firearms] nor the National Guard will ever get me. They got me once and they will never get me again. They are coming. The time has come." In 1987 Koresh, then named Vernon Howell, was arrested and tried for attempted murder but the case was eventually dropped.

The ATF has consistently claimed that the cult was tipped off in advance of the February assault on the compound, which left four federal agents dead, and that the advancing agents had no idea the cult was ready and waiting for them.

The statement by the undercover agent, named as Robert Rodrigues, contradicts the ATF's claim that it had no idea the element of surprise had been lost.

The released affidavits referring to the arrest warrant for Koresh contain unspecific allegations of child abuse, false imprisonment and charges that up to 40 of the compound's residents had violated US immigration law.

Bodies found, page 1



Reno: acted after child abuse was reported



Action replay: Tim Daly playing David Koresh for the NBC television film *In the Line of Duty: Ambush in Waco*. Daly is better known as the star of an American sitcom, *Wings*

Koresh welcomed violent showdown

FROM CHIP BROWN IN WACO

LIFE inside the doomsday Branch Davidian cult's besieged compound included rock'n'roll sessions powered by emergency generators, guns within reach of children, and free love for David Koresh, the leader.

Jesse Amen, who spent more than a week inside the compound after racing past federal agents to join Koresh, said the cult leader welcomed a violent showdown as the stand-off wore on. "David repeatedly said, 'Bring it on'," he added in a telephone interview on Tuesday night. "He said, 'We are ready if they want to fire'." Mr Amen, described by the FBI as a religious fanatic, left the compound on April 4 and is under arrest on a charge of interfering with a law officer.

During the 51-day siege Koresh often responded to the noises blared over FBI loudspeakers by staging mini rock concerts on a moment's notice, Mr Amen said. Koresh was known around Waco as a would-be rock star. He even wrote a song called *Mad Man in Waco* in the 1980s.

Mr Amen also said that Koresh was the only person allowed "to be with the women", whom he claimed as his wives. The cult leader is believed to have had up to 15 wives and to have fathered more than a dozen children. "David's lifestyle was a reflection of society, but David did it in a righteous manner," Mr Amen said. "He was taking on the sins of the others."

□ **Arms accumulated:** The cult spent $200,000 (£130,000) to accumulate a high-powered arsenal in just 16 months and was preparing for "a military-type operation" in Waco, according to the search warrant federal agents were trying to serve on Koresh on February 28, the day the siege began. *(AP)*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Clinton to sign Rio earth treaty

Washington: President Clinton announced yesterday that he will sign the biological diversity treaty, thus reversing a decision by President Bush, who had refused to sign the treaty at the Rio Earth Summit in June last year (Wolfgang Münchau writes).

America was a notable absentee among the signatories of the treaty, which commits the participants to reconcile economic development with conservation of ecosystems. This included develop a strategy to take inventories of plants and wildlife, to preserve threatened species, and to channel bio-technology profits to developing nations.

Mr Bush and his administration objected to the treaty on the grounds that it ran against the interests of the US bio-technology industry.

Editors tried

Athens: Five Greek daily newspaper editors go on trial today for breaking an anti-terrorist law banning the publication of guerrilla statements. *(Reuter)*

Comedian dies

Mexico City: Mario Moreno Reyes, better known as Cantinflas, the Mexican comedian who starred in the film *Around the World in 80 Days*, has died aged 81 of lung cancer in his Mexico City home. *(Reuter)*

Obituary, page 13

Hundreds killed

Brussels: Hundreds of people have been killed in inter-ethnic violence in Zaire's north-eastern region of Kivu, Lambert Mende Omalanga, the communications and press minister, said. *(Reuter)*

Parties banned

Jakarta: President Suharto has ordered Indonesian public servants to avoid giving lavish parties and also warned them not to accept gifts in the form of escort girls. *(AFP)*

UK charity comes under scrutiny

BY ANGELA MACKAY AND CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

OFFICIALS from the Charities Commission and Inland Revenue have started an investigation into the finances of the London Church of Christ, a controversial religious cult.

The Times has learned that the commission started an enquiry on Tuesday following claims by former members that the church was misusing some of the £1.2 million it raises annually from followers. Elaine Graham of the commission said: "We have received representations about this charity and are looking into allegations to see if there is cause for concern."

The Inland Revenue declined to comment. However a former member of the cult confirmed last night that he had been questioned by officials from the Inland Revenue investigating the cult. Information Network Focus on Religious Movements (Inform), a government sponsored body, said they were aware that the group was being looked into. A spokeswoman said they had received a large number of complaints about the activities of the group.

Accused of breaking up families and placing intolerable strains on its members, the 1,200-strong LCC was granted charitable status in 1986. It has also established independent churches in Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh, Leeds, Bristol, Sheffield, Newcastle and Dublin. The church, which mainly attracts young middle class professionals, practises "total exclusivity" which means that unless one is a member of the LCC, it is impossible to be a Christian.

Fair, a voluntary support group for families of cult members, said yesterday that the LCC was the third biggest problem church based on their reports and complaints made to them. The Church of Scientology and the Unification Church (Moonies) rank first and second respectively.

Since American cult members established the church in Britain in 1982, members of the group have gradually become concerned about some of the church's financial practices. Ayman Akshar, 34, a former Bible study leader in the group, became concerned about its finances in 1990. For three years, Mr Akshar claimed he and his wife, Jane, tried to penetrate the wall of secrecy surrounding the accounts but were persecuted within the group for their efforts.

Mr Akshar said: "We had been worried for a long time but when we tried to resolve these matters with the leaders, our criticism was not tolerated and in the end we were kicked out."

In March, Mr and Mrs Akshar were "publicly marked" by the group — its most severe form of censure. According to an LCC leader, the couple were "divisive" and working against the interests of the church. Consequently, members were banned from having any contact with the Akshars. The couple are now co-operating with the investigations.

American polls support assault on cult compound

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE first poll since the Waco debacle yesterday showed remarkably strong support in America for the FBI assault on the Branch Davidians' compound that ended in the deaths by fire on Monday of 86 cult members, at least 24 of them children.

Seventy-three per cent of respondents to the poll believed that the FBI acted responsibly, in pumping tear gas into the compound, which apparently prompted the religious fanatics to commit mass suicide. Ninety-three per cent blamed David Koresh, the cult leader, for the tragedy. Only 13 per cent believed the FBI should have continued its strategy of patient negotiation, while 57 per cent said the Bureau should have acted sooner.

President Clinton has taken a battering from commentators in Washington for allegedly seeking to evade responsibility in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy. Paradoxically Janet Reno, the attorney general who ordered the assault and immediately took full responsibility, seems to be emerging with her stature enhanced.

Mr Clinton finally accepted full responsibility at a press conference on Tuesday, but *The Wall Street Journal* yesterday observed that when Harry Truman said "the buck stops here" he "didn't need 24 hours to see which way the wind was blowing before he said it". The newspaper accused the president of "dumping responsibility onto the barely-in-office Janet Reno" and said his "lack of grace in the face of the Waco tragedy raises anew issues about his instinct on matters of personal responsibility".

The *Journal* is no fan of Mr Clinton's, but other newspapers echoed its criticism. *The Washington Post*, pointing to any president's readiness to take credit for events they have scarcely influenced, said: "The flip side is that the president is also required, and rightly so, to accept responsibility when any agency of government is involved in something that turns out to be a catastrophe."

The New York Times criticised Mr Clinton's scant prior attention to the details of the plan, contending that "failing to raise objections and ask questions is not a definition of presidential leadership". Some commentators drew unflattering comparisons with the willingness of Mr Clinton's idol, President Kennedy, to shoulder responsibility for the Bay of Pigs fiasco even though he, like Mr Clinton, was a new president ill-advised by career bureaucrats.

Struggling to confront an intractable crisis in Bosnia, battling to preserve his economic plan in Congress, the last thing Mr Clinton needed at this point was a fiasco like Waco.

Miss Reno, by contrast, has won universal praise for her insistence that "the buck stops with me", a stand that contrasts strongly with the tendency of most politicians to run from blame or put the best possible "spin" on events. Her transparent integrity has for the time being eclipsed questions about her judgement.

Mayoral run-off set for June

FROM WILLIAM CASH IN LOS ANGELES

NO CLEAR winner emerged from Tuesday's election for the mayor of Los Angeles and the run-off in June is set between two sharply contrasting candidates: Richard Riordan, the Republican millionaire lawyer-businessman, and Mike Woo, a liberal councillor with a radically different vision for the future of the city.

With 24 ethnically diverse candidates — the largest field in city history, the election was the first since 1965 without the current mayor, Tom Bradley, on the ballot papers. With the publicity over the jury deliberations in the Rodney King trial overshadowing the race until the last two days, the public had little time for other candidates.

Mr Riordan, a 62-year-old conservative, won just over 30 per cent of the vote by cultivating his base in white conservative neighbourhoods and claiming that he would "turn LA around" through a traditional urban framework with good schools, strong police and neighbourhoods free from crimes and gangs. The cosmopolitan Mr Woo, 41, won more than 20 per cent of the vote with a campaign that targeted ethnic minorities and poorer communities.

A Chinese American and a career politician who has spent the past eight years as a councillor, Mr Woo is a self-confessed "child of the Sixties" who was a conscientious objector during the Vietnam war and has long been an anti-war activist.

In his post-result speech, he spoke of how he wished to make the city more tolerant and diverse. "I will be a mayor who will reform and change LA, not for the few or the privileged but for the working men and women of this community."

While Mr Woo will be spending the approach to June attempting to convince the citizens that he is not soft on crime, Mr Riordan will be attempting to broaden his appeal beyond the white middle class. With fewer than 39 per cent of Los Angeles citizens being white, a failure to embrace ethnic support will probably mean defeat, in spite of his lead in the first round.

During the campaign, running as an anti-politician who argued that Los Angeles needed tough management, Mr Riordan ran into trouble over a remark he made to a wealthy Bel Air resident after she turned to him and said: "Blacks are awful, don't you think?" Mr Riordan replied: "Only some of them."

The effectiveness of the control of the streets by Willie Williams, the new police chief after the Rodney King verdicts, led many to think that the measure on the ballot which would have added 1,000 police officers on the street through increasing property taxes had been passed. That proposition was not approved by the voters, despite it having been championed by Mr Woo.

The mayoral race is being seen as the climax to what the *Los Angeles Times* has described as "one of the most tumultuous years in the city's history". The election is a symbol for the essential question that has emerged after the verdicts: will Los Angeles be better served by a mayor such as Mr Riordan, who describes himself as "tough enough to turn LA around", or by Mr Woo who claims that what the City of Angels needs is not more division but harmony, which can bring the people together.

□ **Geneva, Illinois:** The couple accused of leaving their two young daughters home alone while they went on holiday will be allowed to visit the girls, but must prove they are reformed parents before regaining custody.

Juvenile Judge Richard Larson of Kane county approved a plan that enables David and Sharon Schoo to visit Nicole, 10, and Diana, 4. Those visits will be arranged and supervised by a therapist assigned to the case. But before the Schoos regain custody, they will have to undergo psychiatric evaluations. *(AP)*

Brazilians likely to opt for presidency

FROM GRABIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

AS Brazilians queued to vote in a plebiscite yesterday, and long before polling booths closed, it seemed likely that an overwhelming majority would opt to keep their presidential government system and reject proposals to switch to parliamentarianism or even a return to monarchy.

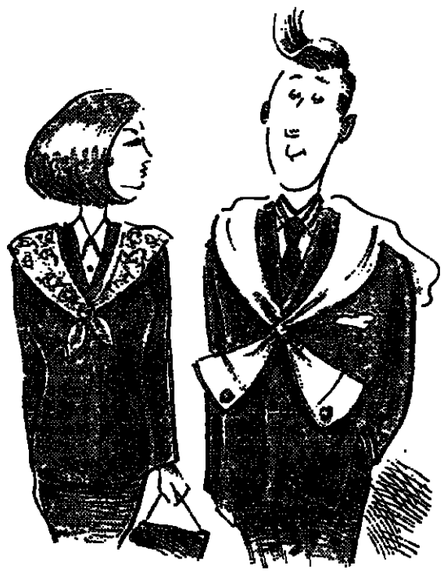
But as many headed to the polling booths for their obligatory vote — rather than as a sign of interest in the plebiscite — analysts predicted that as many as 20 per cent of Brazil's 90 million voters would fail to turn up to vote. A high rate of absenteeism may be a result of the conviction of most Brazilians that their country is facing more urgent problems which the government of President Franco has been ineffective at tackling.

"Absenteeism is unusual because Brazilians usually enjoy elections as much as they enjoy football matches," said a spokesman for a leading polling company. But analysts are predicting a significant number of spoilt ballot papers. In Rio de Janeiro, the sandy beaches which straddle its coastline were filled with *cariocas* — as Rio's inhabitants are called — who seem to be using the plebiscite to take a day off work rather than an important event to decide their country's future.

Analysts predicted 56 per cent of voters prefer to back their existing government system and were reluctant to opt for a change since campaigners for parliamentarianism or monarchy failed to convince people that changing government would improve deteriorating economic and social situation.

This is the second time in 30 years that Brazil has called a plebiscite on government. The last time a majority also backed the presidentialists after an unpopular parliamentary rule which only lasted 16 months and was followed by a military coup.

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More right-wing whites held over Hani plot

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

■ The detention of more Conservatives, including an MP's wife, have added to the woes of the party, already in disarray over leadership problems and policy splits

POLICE yesterday detained five more people on suspicion of being involved in a plot to kill Chris Hani, the general secretary of the South African Communist Party, who was buried on Monday.

Among those arrested is Gaye, wife of Clive Derby-Lewis, the Conservative Party MP who has been in custody since the weekend in connection with Hani's death. Brigadier Frans Malherbe, spokesman for the police on the Witwatersrand, said the five were all right-wingers whose sympathies "probably" lay with the Conservative Party.

The party itself is having a difficult time. Andries Treurnicht, its leader, is seriously ill in hospital and, according to *Die Beeld*, is likely to be compelled to step down. Quoting sources in the Conservative Party, the Afrikaans-language morning newspaper said Dr Treurnicht had had a quintuple by-pass operation during which he several times almost died.

If he does step down, his most likely successor would be Ferdinand Hartzenberg, a Transvaal farmer who has none of Dr Treurnicht's oratorical skills, one of the factors which has helped him keep his party together. According to one former Conservative MP, Dr Hartzenberg is such a hardliner "you could plough with him". The uneasy coalition of "mobilisers" and "negotiators" presently making up the party is likely to divide under any leader lacking Dr Treurnicht's facility for keeping them united.

Elsewhere the unrest and violence plaguing South Africa has continued. A car bomb exploded in a shopping centre at Amanzimtoti on the Natal south coast. Nine people were reported to have been injured, one "very seriously". Several recent incidents on the motorway between Cape Town and D.F. Malan airport, named after the country's first Nationalist prime minister, have led to the deployment of armoured vehicles near trouble spots, especially the turn-offs to the black townships that line the road.

At Ceres, 60 miles northeast of Cape Town, police fired rubber bullets and tear gas at school children marching to the town hall to protest against a visit by President de Klerk's wife, Marike. In the ensuing violence two youths were arrested, a policeman's home was attacked by stone-throwing youths, police vehicles were attacked and a shop window was smashed, but Mrs de Klerk's address to a local women's church organisation went ahead as planned.

The arrests in the Hani case came a few hours before George Churchill-Coleman, former head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, arrived in Johannesburg from London. Flanked by Matthew Phosa, a legal adviser to the African National Congress, and Sheila Camerer, a junior justice minister, Mr Churchill-Coleman made a brief statement. He said that he would be starting work at once in monitoring and assisting the South African police in their enquiries into the alleged conspiracy to murder Hani.

Mr Churchill-Coleman is accompanied by Det Insp Michael Jones, from the Yard's anti-terrorist branch. They will be joined tomorrow by Dr Ralf Krüger, a German expert who is both a lawyer and a policeman.



Malherbe: Yard expert will not be in charge

Brig Malherbe was at pains to point out that Mr Churchill-Coleman would not in any sense be in charge of the enquiries. He would be present, and would make his observations and recommendations to Klaus von Lieres und Wilkau, attorney-general of the Witwatersrand. Major General Piet du Toit, who is in overall charge of the investigation, said yesterday that the local police had "no problems" over the appointment of the international experts, adding: "We are open, we enjoy this working together."

The people arrested with Mrs Derby-Lewis were named by Brig Malherbe as Arthur Kemp, a journalist, Edwin Clark, a computer expert who had recently been assisting Mrs Derby-Lewis, Faan Venter, an estate agent, and Lionel Durant, a property developer. All of those arrested except Mr Kemp live at Krugersdorp, west of Johannesburg. Mr Kemp lives at Benoni, on the East Rand.

Mrs Derby-Lewis, who was born in Australia, is herself something of a vehement political figure, sometimes referred to as "the Winnie Mandela of the right" because of her outspoken views and volubility. She and her husband have been prominent at least partly because it has been extremely rare for English-speaking people to join what has been an almost entirely Afrikaner party.

Mr and Mrs Derby-Lewis both fought parliamentary elections after the Conservatives split from the ruling National Party and both lost. Mr Derby-Lewis was put forward by the party to take up its one nominated seat in parliament and was also made a member of the now defunct President's Council.

Mrs Derby-Lewis wrote for *Die Patriot*, the party's newspaper. In 1987 the couple left the Roman Catholic Church, which in their view had become too left-wing, to join the Afrikaans Protestant Church.

Brig Malherbe said the five arrested were being held for questioning. They would be charged or released within 48 hours. He added that Mr Derby-Lewis and Janusz Walus, the Polish emigré accused of firing the shots that killed Hani, were co-operating with the police. Further arrests were possible. He also said that police had now ruled out the involvement of a second car in the murder.

Mandela's militancy fires black youth

BY MICHAEL HAMLYN



Mandela: charismatic figure who articulates the grievances and anger of young township blacks

WINNIE Mandela, the estranged wife of Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, has been back in the news since the assassination of Chris Hani, the general secretary of the South African Communist Party. She is plainly a thorn in the side of the men surrounding her husband, a militant who does not hesitate to use inflammatory language wherever she appears.

She was seen on television at the weekend singing revolutionary songs alongside Peter Mokaba, the radical leader of the ANC Youth League, who was caught by cameras urging his followers to "kill the Boers". The previous week she was seen confronting police when they shot a man and wounded a woman in quelling a demonstration. She accused the ANC leadership of being interested only in "getting between the silken sheets" with the white political elite, and selling out the interests of the black masses.

Her appeal to wild marginalised young blacks is undoubted, if a trifle hard to understand given her conviction for kidnapping and conspiring to assault one of the boys who surrounded her. His body was later found in open country.

If it were not for her conviction she would be in a far more powerful position, and a radical influence on the future of the country. Mrs Mandela's reputation stems from the late 1970s and early 1980s when it was the young who were at the forefront of the struggle against apartheid following the Soweto uprising of 1976. She was the charismatic figure who articulated their grievances and their anger. She wore camouflage uniforms, she was banned and banished time and again.

She was charged with breaking her banning orders: she spoke in 1986 of black liberation being achieved through "matches and tyres", a reference to "necklacing", in which burning tyres are placed round a victim's neck.

Today the ANC is more respectable. The emphasis has moved from the armed struggle to the negotiating table. Young people are being urged to work hard and to get an education. According to Professor Tom Lodge, of Witwatersrand University, the three structures that might prevent the radicalisation of young people — school, church and the family — do not do so.

Ken Hartshorne, author of a study of the education system called *Taming the Young Lions*, said: "Six out of ten candidates having survived the struggle to stay in school, but with no certificate to show what they have achieved have gone out into a world of unemployment and alienation."

The churches have become radicalised, and the family is failing young blacks as the pressures of poverty, overcrowding and broken marriages continue to soar.

Through her revolutionary rhetoric and continued use of combat fatigues, and her constant call to reject the deals, she strikes exactly the right note to appeal to the disenfranchised.

Sharif seeks Punjab support

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

MIAN Nawaz Sharif, the sacked Pakistani prime minister, toured Punjab by train yesterday to rally support for a comeback attempt.

However, his Muslim League has split into rival factions and the multiparty coalition that he headed for 30 months has disintegrated.

Benazir Bhutto, the former prime minister, is demanding the dissolution of the provincial assemblies in Sind, North West Frontier, Punjab and Baluchistan and the appointment of caretaker chief ministers. Their dismissal was part of the secret agreement she made with President Ishaq Khan for getting rid of Mr Sharif last Sunday. She is particularly insistent that the Punjab assembly, where Mr Sharif has his stronghold, should be dissolved. She has said privately that otherwise she might quit the caretaker government. That could precipitate moves by the army to fill the power vacuum.

The elections promised for July 14 remain in question. The Bhutto camp is concerned that the president might ask the supreme court for a delay, despite the constitutional requirement for a poll within 90 days. The chief justice is a recent presidential appointee, and other justices are also beholden to the president; any such request would probably be granted.

The imposition of a state of emergency cannot be ruled out. The uncertainty has severely damaged Pakistan's economic reform programme, and the Karachi stock exchange has crashed.

The Lahore high court yesterday began considering a petition by the Sharif camp alleging that the government's dismissal was illegal. The case was adjourned until May 3.

Soft words pep up Hong Kong market

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

CONCILIATORY statements from both sides sent the Hong Kong stock market soaring by more than 1,000 points yesterday and seem to augur well for success at today's talks in Peking on the colony's future.

This is expected to be just the first round of a series aimed at securing a compromise on the 1994-1995 Hong Kong elections. Yesterday Chris Patten, the governor, pleaded strongly for the United States to sustain China's most favoured nation (MFN) trading status.

"It is those in the vanguard of reform in China who have benefited most from MFN," Mr Patten told an American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. "It will be they who suffer first from any threat of its withdrawal or significant restriction."

He denounced as "perverse" efforts by some American politicians and commentators to link the trading status to his proposal — fiercely attacked by Peking — to extend the electoral franchise in Hong Kong before the colony reverts to China in 1997. "Please don't," he said. "You can't help us by hurting our economy. That would be counter-productive."

President Clinton must decide by June whether to sustain, revoke or add conditions to China's trading status, which enables Chinese products to be imported at preferential tariffs. What is unclear is whether Britain is prepared to stand up for Mr Patten's democratic reforms or is preparing to compromise.

The Chinese-controlled media in Hong Kong yesterday quoted Lu Ping, the head of Peking's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, assuring the Hong Kong business community that the takeover committee China is to set up would not be a shadow government.

Mr Patten wants the arrangements for the elections put before the legislature by the summer, but Peking is expected to try to push that deadline back. The reform package would mean that a majority of the seats in the Legislative Council would be elected democratically when China takes over.

China wants only 20 of the 60 seats to be directly elected in 1995. Mr Patten has said that he is prepared to consider other proposals, but has insisted that the 1995 elections must be fair and open. But he is under pressure from businessmen to compromise, even if it means scrapping democratic elections.

Leading article, page 21

To explain how Club World is ...
we'd like to take you ... a 10 hour ... minutes?
Have you got ... minutes?

Clutching your tightly packed briefcase, you make your way through the tightly packed airport. People. Noise. More people. You're just preparing yourself to do the passport control shuffle when hold on, you're leaving everyone behind.

You're sailing through your own separate security channel.

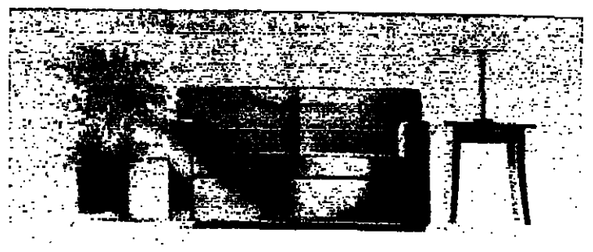
As you drift through the doors of the new Club World Lounge, you hear something strange.

What is it?

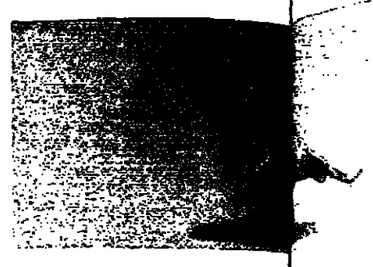
Absolutely nothing.

You haven't heard that for a long time. Listen,

there it is again.



Your flight an... you out of the so... old armchair of yo...



Wait a whoooooo... armchair never fe... this ... where did that fou... Oh well, just k... it... dinner.

A choice of four leisurely ... over three and a half h... or a lighter meal over ... 60 minutes

So you could stop in...

Or go on

And on and on

And to follow, m... we ... a small slice ... escapism

You turn ON ... ur perso...

back video. Look... to ... choice of 8 chan... of enter... ment, you let you... mind wan...

You've seen t... film, no... a booklet: 'The ... Being ... Air Programme.'

Let's just try ... few exer...

CLUB ... BRITISH ... RWAYS
The world's fa... airline

هكذا من الاصل

lain how Club World is changing
e to take you on a 10 hour flight.
Have you got 2 minutes?

you
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Your flight announcement prises you out of the a and into... that old armchair of urs.



With a whoooooops, your [illegible] this good. And [illegible] rest come from?

[illegible] ge back and think [illegible]

leisurely courses
a half hours
d over a mere
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stop here

on

nd on

y we recommend
f escapism

our personal seat-
ng FWD to your
nels of entertain-
mind switch OFF.
e film, now read
ll Being in the

a few exercises.

Stttretch your arms and breeeeeeeathe out

Rotate wrists clockwise (gosh, is that the time already?)

Breathe innnnnnn and out... innnnnnn and out... eyelids getting heavy....who's that snoring?..... maybe I should just look at those

AWOKEN by a gentle alarm call and, exactly when you ordered it, breakfast.

➢

Tropical fruit or *Birchermuesli*

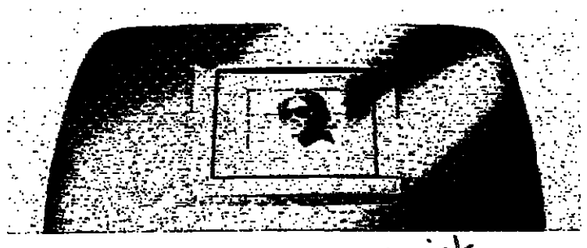
➢

Orange juice or *Energiser drink*

➢

Eeni, Meeni, Miney, or *Mo*

➢



Right, let's have a quick look at the presentation.
This seems to be a problem. — no it's not.
We just need to be more decisive on this.
or do we?

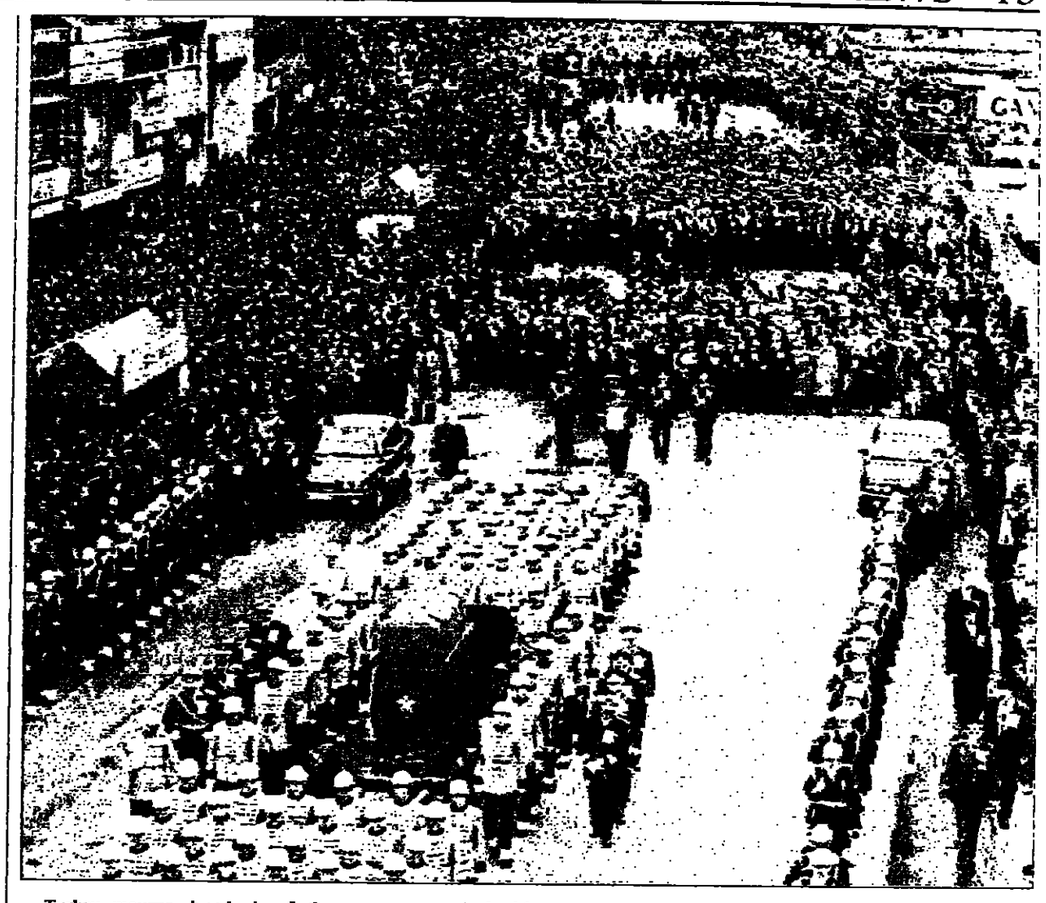
Before you know it, you've landed.

Please remain reading until the ad comes to a complete halt.

Congratulations. You've just flown around the new Club World in 80 lines.

WORLD
BRITISH AIRWAYS
ite airline
The

NEW SEAT AND VIDEO CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ON 60% OF AIRCRAFT.



Turkey mourns: hundreds of thousands turned out yesterday to watch the funeral procession for President Ozal, whose coffin on a gun carriage was pulled through the streets of Ankara by troops. Scores of foreign leaders filed past the flag-draped coffin lying in state at Ankara's parliament. The cortège moved slowly through streets packed with mourners to the Kocatepe mosque. Ozal, 66, died on Saturday of a heart attack. He had served for three years as president after a six-year stint as prime minister. Turkish newspapers accused certain Western countries of sending relatively low-ranking officials to the funeral of a man they had hailed as a great ally during the 1990-91 Gulf conflict. They attacked Washington for sending the former Secretary of State, James Baker, rather than George Bush or a senior member of the current administration. Germany was represented by President von Weizsäcker and the presidents of warring Azerbaijan and Armenia were both present. *(Reuter)*

Palestinians and Arab states return to talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN BEIRUT AND RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

THE four-month hiatus in the Middle East peace process ended yesterday when the Arabs and Palestinians agreed to resume talks with Israel on April 27, despite the continuing presence of 396 Palestinian deportees stranded in a south Lebanese no man's land.

The decision followed nearly a week of debate in the Palestine Liberation Organisation and among its supporters, all of whom have been accused by the deportees of betrayal. Palestinian radicals have stepped up death threats against all members of the delegation. Four masked men burst into the Jericho home of one earlier this week.

For Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, the announcement in Damascus, that Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinians would resume dialogue with the Jewish state effectively brought to a close the crisis sparked in December by his decision to deport 415 suspected Palestinian activists.

"Israel will do everything in order to realise the chance for peace," Mr Rabin said, warning, "the Arabs should understand that peace without security is devoid of any meaning in Israel's eyes".

Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, said that the left-wing coalition government was prepared to extend an olive branch to the Palestinians. "The giving party is really Israel, not the Palestinians. Israel, whether we like it or not, must remain the giving party. The party that takes most of the risks. This is an unchangeable, asymmetrical situation."

He said that Israel was prepared to ease two of its most controversial policies, deportations and the sealing off of the occupied territories.

The announcement of the Arab acceptance of Washington's invitation to talks boycotted since December 17 came as Arab-Israeli violence raged both in Lebanon and the occupied Gaza Strip. One Palestinian was killed and 55 others shot in the worst unrest since it was sealed three weeks ago. Black smoke from burning barricades covered towns and refugee camps.

In Lebanon, where pro-Iranian guerrillas from Hezbollah (the Party of God) have vowed to sabotage the Washington talks, Lebanese officials said two civilians were killed and several wounded as Israeli artillery pounded villages with eight shells a minute in a guerrilla area only 25 miles south of Beirut.

The flare up followed a Hezbollah attack in the Israeli-held security zone in south Lebanon and the kidnapping by the Islamic guerrillas of a member of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army. The real Lebanese army was placed on full alert and was also returning fire against Israeli-held positions.

Further south, leaders of the deportees pledged to step up protest action against the decision of the PLO to respond to American and Arab pressure and agree to attend the ninth round of negotiations which should have begun on April 20.

Aziz Dweik, a spokesman for the exiles, said they would vote on protest action. "A committee of 25 has been taking soundings," he said. "The most likely suggestion will be to burn our tents and clothes and march again towards Israeli lines in our white burial shrouds in an attempt to return to our homeland. Many of our people will be willing to die."

In addition to taking action at their makeshift camp stuck between Lebanese and Israeli lines near where they were shelled last week when attempting a similar march, the deportees have also called on their followers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to prevent all members of the Palestinian negotiating team from returning to their homes.

Western governments were braced last night for an upsurge in Arab-Israeli violence in the coming weeks as backers of the Palestinians opposed to the peace talks — including an alliance of ten extremist groups based in Damascus — take steps to try to ensure they go no further.

Arab sources said that the main Arab pressure to resume talking had come from Syria which is anxious to conclude a treaty to regain the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights before its leader, President Assad, succumbs to poor health now affecting him.



Peres: now ready to extend olive branch

Looter of India's sandalwood throws hunters off the scent

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIANS like to romanticise their bandits. The nation's most famous outlaw is a man called Veerappan, who is tearing up forests of prized sandalwood in southern India and who, in a recent single bomb attack, killed 22 policemen.

He is destroying huge areas of forest by employing thousands of villagers in one of India's biggest environmental scandals. Police, forestry officials and government bureaucrats are involved in the plunder, thanks to Veerappan's famous largesse. He has adopted entire villages, showering them with money in return for protection.

Senior policemen are building mansions for themselves on the proceeds of his generosity. State government officials clamber over one another to assure him of their loyalty and are rewarded accordingly. And so, for more than four years, thousands of policemen belonging to a special interstate task force have wasted their time pursuing him.

Veerappan operates on the border of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, moving constantly among villages in the forests he is destroying, never sleeping in the same place twice. Last week several landmines blew up members of the police task force. Gopal Krishnan, the Tamil Nadu superintendent of police, who heads the state's campaign to catch Veerappan, was seriously injured.

Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have jointly announced a reward of 4 million rupees (£88,300) for Veerappan's capture, and consideration is being given to calling out the army. Rewards of 2 million rupees have also been been put on the heads of each of 50 members of his gang.

Veerappa Molly, chief minister of Karnataka, acknowledged that politicians were closely involved in the sandalwood racket but added: "Any nexus anywhere will be broken." He said that Veerappan operated in a 3,750 square miles area of dense forests, making him hard to track down. "But we will not rest until we nab him."

Veerappan is accused of killing a police superintendent, three sub-inspectors, nine constables, a divisional forest officer, several forest rangers and scores of rivals. He has been active for nearly 20 years in the Palar and Sayamangalam forest range along the Tamil Nadu-Karnata border, initially as an elephant hunter. He is said to have killed more than 300 elephants for their tusks, before moving to sandalwood smuggling because he had wiped out most of the tusker population.

Sandalwood has an almost mystical quality in India, making it sought after and expensive. It has been used for thousands of years in Hindu religious ceremonies and is still burnt regularly in Hindu temples despite the soaring cost. Sandalwood paste or powder has traditionally been used for making caste marks on the forehead and body, and the wood is favoured among the rich for funeral pyres.

□ **Delhi:** India yesterday accused Pakistan of masterminding last month's bomb blasts in Bombay which killed 300 people. Shankarrao Chavan, the home minister, told parliament that ten arrested suspects were trained near Islamabad. *(AFP)*

Bullets off menu at lunch club in Lebanon

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN BYBLOS, LEBANON

Eighteen years to the day after the Lebanese civil war began, it was as if the hostilities had never happened. Three hundred Muslims and Christians were enjoying Sunday lunch at the Byblos fishing club which, before the fighting erupted in 1975, was the most fashionable restaurant in the Middle East.

"It is incredible. it is like that every weekend now. The hatreds and suspicions have been put aside because people became tired of the killing," Pepe Abed, the owner, said. "We have no bombs or bullets any more. It is safer here than in Cairo, London or New York."

Many Muslims coming to this historic Christian-dominated port had never seen its Phoenecian ruins because they knew that if they travelled to the east of the country it was likely they would be murdered, and their bodies mutilated.

The sudden revival of the club, with its fading photographs of prewar customers such as Marlon Brando, Brigitte Bardot, Anita Ekberg and David Niven and David Rockefeller, is a potent symbol that Lebanon has begun to rise from the ashes of a religious-based civil war that made Beirut a byword for violence.

Signs of reconciliation are everywhere from the now non-existent "green line" that divided the two warring halves of the capital to the nattily attired traffic policeman handing out parking tickets in formerly lawless districts which until 1990 were the fiefdoms of militias and kidnappers.

The first foreign aid totalling $1.27 billion (£824 million), including a $175 million loan from the World Bank, has begun to arrive to finance a Herculean redevelopment plan including the rebuilding of roads, schools, universities, hospitals, the electric grid, water and sewer systems and the provision of 500,000 telephone lines.

Next week in Rome, Rafik Hariri, the Sunni Muslim prime minister, will meet the Pope in a further step to heal religious wounds that until recently were as deep as those dividing parts of the former Yugoslavia.

"Because of the oriental mentality, we have been able to forget and end the feuds that cost so many lives. Nobody here talks about the war, although we all suffered from it," Mr Abed, a man in his eighties, said.

Scenes of brutality scar British forces

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT AND ADAM LEBOR IN SPLIT

■ British forces have favoured negotiation over aggression. This kept casualties down but could not forestall renewed hostilities

BRITISH soldiers in Bosnia are seeing killings and atrocities that will scar them for ever, Lieutenant Colonel Bob Stewart, commander of The Cheshire Regiment, said yesterday after six days of ferocious fighting between local Croats and Muslims.

Lt Col Stewart and his regiment, whose six-month tour of duty in Bosnia is due to be completed in May, are coming across harrowing scenes of summary executions of women and children. "My soldiers have seen some things that will mark them for life."

Speaking on BBC Radio's *Today* programme from the British base at Vitez in central Bosnia, Lt Col Stewart said: "They have seen children held in the arms of their mothers and shot. I don't think any British soldier will be unmarked by that. "Reports of atrocities are correct. Whole families have been killed. We do not know who is doing this. But we're more concerned *with saving lives.*"

Fighting between the HVO, the Bosnian Croat army, and the mainly Muslim Bosnian army continued in Vitez, Zenica, Busovaca down the road to Kiseljak, just outside Sarajevo. Up to 200 people have been killed and 300 wounded, say British UN officers.

The surge of fighting in the Vitez area, where the main British Bosnian HQ is sited, has produced a grim finale for troops coming to the end of their tour. The first elements of the replacement battalion are to arrive in the first week of May. An official handover is expected by mid-May.

The Cheshires, 9th/12th Lancers, and other elements of the first six-month tour are being replaced by a battalion group, based on the 1st Battalion The Prince of Wales' Own Regiment of Yorkshire. The battalion will be reinforced by elements of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the Gordon Highlanders and the Queen's Lancashire Regiment; 35 Regiment Royal Engineers is being replaced by 21 Regiment.

The handover will occur at a crucial point in Britain's involvement in the United Nations humanitarian operation. With Western governments studying contingency plans for air strikes on Serb targets in eastern Bosnia, and with fierce fighting spreading throughout central Bosnia between Muslims and Croats, doubts are being raised about the prudence of continuing with aid convoys.

Lessons learnt by the Cheshire battalion group are being relayed to the Prince of Wales' Own Regiment. Lieutenant *Colonel Alastair Duncan*, commanding officer of the ingoing regiment, has already been to Bosnia to be briefed on the takeover and to reconnoitre the territory for which his battalion group will be responsible.

Brigadier Andrew Cumming, the overall commander of the British forces in Bosnia and Croatia, is also being replaced after six months by Brigadier Robin Searby, who will be based at Divulje barracks near the airport at Split in Croatia.

During his six months, Lt Col Stewart has set a personal example which is likely to be followed by his successor. Although equipped with heavy armoured vehicles built for waging war, his troops have opened fire on only about three occasions. The guiding principle has been to negotiate, not to act aggressively.

The men from the Cheshires and 9th/12th Lancers have had remarkable success until this week in keeping the peace in the territory in which they have patrolled and escorted aid convoys. The result has been a significantly low number of casualties: two killed, one of which was accidental, and four injured, two of them through accidents.

The decision to send Warrior and Scimitar armoured vehicles has been more than justified. The lives of British soldiers have been saved by the protective armour on the numerous occasions when they have run into mortar and light-arms fire.

The new battalion group will have the same mission but the huge engineering job of building an infrastructure, improving and widening mountain tracks and constructing a proper camp at Vitez has been largely completed.

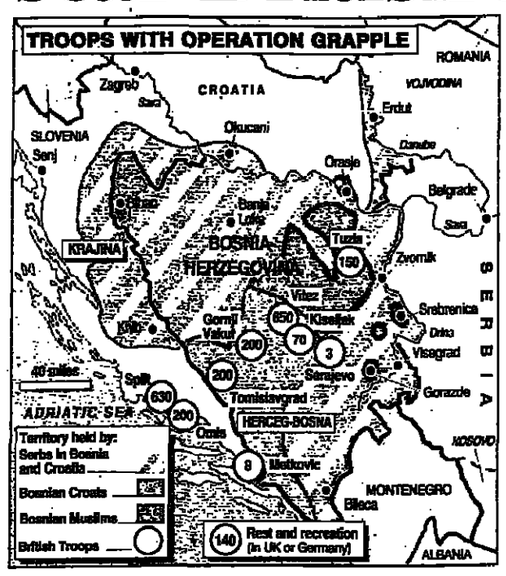
Apart from Vitez, Tomislavgrad and Gornji Vakuf in Bosnia, there is also a company of 150 at Tuzla in the northeast. They are based in makeshift buildings at the airport. A transport unit is also based at Omis, near Split.

With no end in sight to the fighting in Bosnia, Ministry of Defence staff are preparing for a third six-month tour, starting in November, though officially the government is only committed to one year.

□ **Snap attack:** Bojan Stojanovic, 23, a prize-winning Serbian press photographer, was placed under police protection yesterday after surviving an assassination attempt in Amsterdam (Mark Fuller writes).

Two armed men, believed to be Serbian nationalists, forced him into a car on Sunday and tried to strangle him with a cord. Mr Stojanovic managed to escape by smashing his camera into one of his assailant's faces and then jumping from the car into a canal.

Muslims disarmed, page 1
William Rees-Mogg, page 20





Mission of hope: Sead Bekric, the 14-year-old Bosnian boy whose eyes were severely injured during Serb shelling of Srebrenica, is carried off an aeroplane on his way to the Jules Stein Eye Institute in Los Angeles. Yesterday he was said to be "resting comfortably" there (William Cash writes). His care is being paid for by the charity Americare out of funds from a company owned by a Croatian-American. Part of one of Sead's eyes was blown out while he was playing football, and there is concern over whether he will regain use of his other eye.

Sniped-at Serbs feel victimised in looking-glass war

FROM TIM JUDAH IN GRBAVICA, SARAJEVO

This is a world of "Chinese walls" and taxi radiophones. Armoured cars charge up the deserted boulevard and old ladies are breathless after sprinting across exposed street corners. "Danger — sniper" a sign reads. Striped blue-and-white curtains hung across gaps in buildings billow in the wind.

The silence is punctuated by the clatter of shots, the occasional crump of mortar, the blast of heavy artillery and the scream of Nato jets streaking high overhead. A familiar enough scene in Muslim Sarajevo. But this is the other side of the front line. Grbavica is a Serb-held part of Sarajevo where, for its remaining residents, the siege is in the eye of the beholder.

Of its prewar 20,000 population, only 8,000 remain. Most, but not all, non-Serbs have gone. Most of the young have gone. Above all, the elderly are left to eke out an existence.

Before the war Lenin Street was a bustling main road. Now it is silent. Clouds of dust swirl when a rare car speeds past. They race past the so-called Chinese walls at crossings along the streets that once led to the centre of Sarajevo. The walls — breeze blocks, bricks, earth ramps and burnt-out cars and lorries — have been built to protect people going about their daily business from Bosnian snipers.

Captain Aleksandar Petrovic, a local Serb commander, says that ten people a week are wounded or killed by snipers and mortars. The curtains, too, have been put up to hide passers-by. The terror of the hidden marksman reigns on the other side as well, but the Serb commander says: "Our snipers are only to eliminate their snipers."

In a yard flanked by blocks of flats with plastic sheeting for windows a line of elderly people queues beside a shiny red car with a radiophone aerial on its roof. "Before the war I was a taxi-driver," says Radenko, its cheerful camouflage-jacketed driver. "I call my Muslim taxi-driver friend on the other side and people can talk to each other." Grasping the microphone, an old man's eyes water. "It's dad, I'm fine; mummy is at home and she's OK, *too.*"

"Life is pretty normal actually," says Branka, 30, who has been walking her spaniel Daisy. "We have electricity every two or three days, there's water, but not in my flat, and there's food in the market. Snipers? It was worrying at first but you get used to it."

Branka is an optimist. She believes that one day the Chinese walls will come down. There is a marked absence of hate here. Only, the feeling of those living on this side of the dangerous front line that it is actually they who are besieged. "I feel I have been accused by the tone of your questions," bristles Captain Petrovic. "We have encircled the city because the Muslims and Croats have more infantry. They are not imprisoned. It's a preventive measure."

Life is tough in Grbavica. Soup kitchens are in operation, diets are supplemented by United Nations humanitarian aid and there is no work. But peer through the chinks in the Chinese walls, or look down on the city centre from the artillery and tank positions in the hills, and it is clear that there is no comparison of suffering. Buildings are pockmarked with shrapnel, but they are not gutted and gouged by heavy artillery as many are on the other side. The trees still grow here; 500 yards away they have been chopped down for firewood. Above all, you can leave here and drive out into the country where, just five minutes from the last Chinese walls and into the hills, Serb peasants still tend their sheep and till their land.

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Business picks up at the edge of the world

Michael Binyon, continuing his journey through Russia, finds support for Boris Yeltsin and a rare outbreak of the work ethic in Siberia. Seventh stop: PERM

THIS is the edge of Europe. Asia begins at the regional boundary running along the Ural uplands. To the north the land thins out into birch woods, tundra and permafrost. There are no settlements between this ancient land of more than one million people and the North Pole.

Spring has not yet come to Perm and temperatures still fall to minus-10C at night. But the political temperature is rising fast. The Yeltsin campaign, under the able direction of Sergei Kalyagin, a former local deputy to the old Soviet congress, is ready with posters, banners, meetings and canvassing to build on the early steps to reform.



Perm has already privatised 40 per cent of its shops; the other 60 per cent will all be in private hands by next year, once the paperwork is completed. Food is plentiful, prices are reasonable, and the city, a centre of heavy industry known to the outside world largely for its weapons production and the excellence of its ballet, appears to be committed to the market.

The president's supporters, grouped under an umbrella that includes the Democratic Russia alliance, the Greens, veterans' organisations and victims of Stalinist repression, admit that Mr Yeltsin has made mistakes. Many who voted for him in 1991 are now wavering. "'The president is leading us to chaos,' people tell me when I go to their homes," said Ergash Nurmalayev, a representative from the Kirov region. "I explain that it's not his fault, that life may be more difficult but at least we can think and speak freely." This is a sentiment not often heard in Moscow and other big cities, where post-Communist freedoms are taken for granted.

The latest polls here still give Mr Yeltsin a handsome personal mandate of 57 per cent and an overwhelming 74 per cent want fresh elections to oust the hardliners in the deeply unpopular Congress. But support for the president's reforms is less assured; only 43 per cent back them, with 52 per cent opposed.

At a meeting of about 40 campaign workers Mr Kalyagin warned them that the fight would be tough. A representative from the nearby villages described how the local communists on the collective farms were planning to cheat by changing the order of the questions. "Tell the election commission immediately." Mr Kalyagin said. "We must insist that the ballot paper is shown on television beforehand."

The campaign workers voiced fears that if Mr Yeltsin lost the bad old days would return. "I was a clown in the circus. I'm probably the oldest one here," said a greying Valentin Mukhtotov. "We cultural workers hated being used by the Communists as weapons in the hands of the party. We had to churn out all this socialist realism. We're afraid if they come back they'll do the same again to culture."

He and others insisted that the older generation, who knew what Stalinism meant, were not, as many say, dyed-in-the-wool conservatives but were on Mr Yeltsin's side and supported reform. On the other side of town the same sentiment was vividly expressed by the sales staff at a moribund state shoe store who bought their shop six months ago and have transformed it into a thriving general store through sheer enthusiasm. "We have never had to work so hard. But it's fun. We can see things getting better every day. Nobody ever bothered in the old days," one said.

Perm is not the only place to give privatisation the green light. Even in Nizhny Tagil, a heavily polluted industrial town producing tanks and armaments, privatisation has begun, despite layers of obstructive bureaucracy. Three months ago Ekaterina Likhodei, a bright, determined mother of three who was last year invited to England to look at small businesses after writing to *The Times* for advice, finally opened her own second-hand shop. She and two young women now sell anything brought to them.

"It's been very tough," she said. "We even had a murder in the shop. Crime has gone up all over town."

All the privatised shops in Perm also worry about theft and windows and warehouse entrances are barred. But behind the battered façade of the old shoe store, newly named "Argos", the atmosphere has been transformed. Friendly service and an array of shoes from the Far East as well as groceries, home-made cakes, honey and conserves from local farms bring in customers by the thousand.

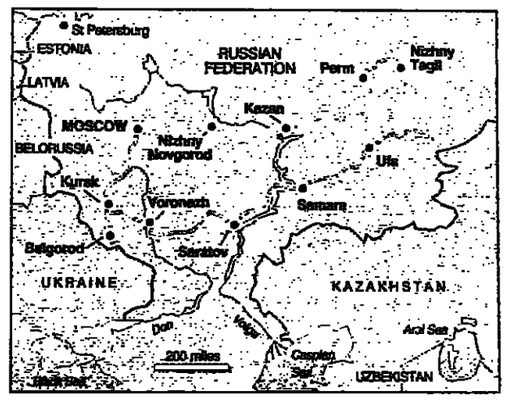
"Of course, we want to specialise. But the demand is so great that we are now selling everything our city lacks," said Olga Alexeyeva, the bustling director.

Argos cost its owners 11 million roubles (£120,000) which they promised to pay back over three years. They have already paid off half. It was time for a toast. "The reforms are taking root here," said Mr Kalyagin as he raised his glass. "We just hope people understand that when they come to vote."

CHRIS HARRIS



Window shopping: soldiers in Perm examine goods on display at Argos, formerly a shoe shop, which now sells a wide range of local and foreign products, including clothes, food, flowers and vodka. "We sell everything our city lacks," Olga Alexeyeva, the director said



Decision boosts Yeltsin's 'feel-good' factor

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S constitutional court yesterday backed President Yeltsin's interpretation of the level of support he will need to win Sunday's referendum.

The court ruled that the main question, "Do you have confidence in the president?", did not affect the constitution and that Mr Yeltsin required only 50 per cent of the turnout to win, rather than a majority of those eligible to vote, as stipulated by the Congress of People's Deputies. The judges ruled that the same standard should apply to the question on approval for economic reform, but said the questions on early elections to the presidency and parliaments needed support from half the entire electorate to be binding.

The highest court in the land had appeared to be siding with parliament in the constitutional struggle, and its finding, along with a series of encouraging opinion polls, will increase Mr Yeltsin's confidence in the final days of the campaign. Voting began in outlying areas of Russia yesterday with sailors and fishermen in the Arctic Kola peninsula the first to cast their ballots. Mr Yeltsin turned his attention to young voters, handing out awards to rock bands who had supported him by playing on the barricades during the attempted 1991 coup.

Mr Yeltsin joked about his quick temper: "I need to calm down in my spare time, not work myself up into a frenzy." Mr Yeltsin's aides, who had been worried that he was seeming tired and lacklustre, are now confidently invoking the latest imported Americanism: the "feel-good factor".

Having wasted his energy and the electorate's patience by trading insults with Ruslan Khasbulatov, the parliamentary speaker, Mr Yeltsin has now rediscovered the force of simple messages and has managed to portray the choice on Sunday as between progress to democracy and prosperity or a return to state intrusion into every aspect of life. He has also dropped the hectoring and often omniscient tone of his appeals for support, admitting in a newspaper interview yesterday that he had failed to foresee some of the difficulties brought by reform.

After some lapses of temper last week when he told a Siberian crowd worried about the reforms: "Don't vote if you don't want to: no one's forcing you," he has recovered some of his populist drive, telling giggling female workers in a Moscow biscuit factory to have more children: "They will reap the fruits of the new Russia." His team also has a good grasp of the power of television and Mr Yeltsin's ratings appear to have jumped by three percentage points after a documentary screened this week showing him at home in his modest flat with his wife Naina and their grandchildren.

Mr Yeltsin's main problem will be the predicted negative response to the question: "Do you approve of the government's social and economic programme since 1992?"

Anti-Mafia prosecutors target defence minister

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

SIGNOR GIULIANO Amato, the prime minister, prepared the swan song of his scandal-tainted government yesterday. Italian magistrates asked parliament to waive the immunity from prosecution of Salvatore Andò, the defence minister, who is supected of soliciting Mafia votes.

The request to proceed against Signor Andò, a Sicilian Socialist, was deposited at the public prosecutor's office in his native Catania and marks the first direct investigation of a government minister for alleged links to Cosa Nostra. As the news broke, Giulio Andreotti, elder statesman of the Christian Democrats and former prime minister, was at a session of the Senate committee considering a request to waive his own immunity from prosecution on charges of collusion with the Mafia.

Signor Andreotti, 74, strenuously denied an alleged eyewitness account by a Mafia informant that he had met Salvatore "Toto" Riina, the Cosa Nostra's "boss of bosses", in Palermo, much less had greeted him with an embrace and a kiss.

Parliament was last night hearing a farewell speech by Signor Amato, who is expected to resign this week. President Scalfaro has indicated that he will by Saturday name a prime minister-designate to head a new government to take into account the overwhelming vote for change in last weekend's referendum.

Signor Andò was placed under investigation on evidence from Claudio Severino Samperi, a Mafia supergrass who formerly belonged to the clan headed by Benedetto Santapaola, the main Cosa Nostra boss in Catania, who is on the run, judicial sources said. Signor Samperi claims aides of Signor Andò asked mafiosi to arrange votes for him in national and local elections in Catania.

Signor Andò said recently that he expected the Mafia to try to frame him as a result of his decision to send troops to Sicily last August after the murders of Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, the anti-Mafia judges. "I am indignant but calm," he was quoted as saying of the allegation against him.

Magistrates in Catania said Signor Andò had been under formal investigation for 20 days and that other supergrasses had confirmed Signor Samperi's evidence against him. Magistrates said they also took into account a letter sent to the Socialist party leadership in 1982 by Ernesto Salluzzo, a party rival, accusing Signor Andò of being linked to Signor Santapaola. Signor Andò successfully sued for libel over the letter after it was published in *L'Unità*, the Communist daily.

Cabinet approves mission

FROM REUTER IN BONN

HELMUT Kohl's government yesterday forced through its campaign for a wider German military role when the cabinet approved the deployment of 1,600 troops for the United Nations humanitarian mission in Somalia.

"Have we forgotten that it was only the strength of weapons and not peace marches that put an end to Hitler's crimes?" Klaus Kinkel, the foreign minister, asked parliament, referring to the allied defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945. He urged the opposition Social Democrats to drop their blockade on relaxing constitutional limits on military activity.

Herr Kinkel, of the junior Free Democratic Party (FDP) in the centre-right coalition, said Germany had benefited from peace in Europe guaranteed by its allies during the Cold War and must now do its part by boosting UN strength.

Austerity starts at the top in France

Balladur's team takes pay cut

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

■ M Balladur's war on extravagance pleases the public but mutterings have begun among his own ministers

THE SMILES were not altogether convincing yesterday as the ministers of France's new conservative government voiced support for the latest "symbolic" gesture by Edouard Balladur — a 10 per cent cut in their salaries.

Most managed to tell the cameras that they thought it only right that they should set an example for the spirit of sacrifice that the country would be asked to make in forthcoming tax rises. Some ministers were pursued by reporters as they left the cabinet meeting at the Elysée Palace, because they had followed the prime minister's example and walked there rather than riding in their limousines.

The impending drop in their 560,000 franc (£68,300) salaries was leaked to the media and privately confirmed by officials, along with word that M Balladur would also delay pay rises for France's 2.6 million civil servants. That news brought indignation from the bureaucrats' unions.

Ministerial muttering over pay cuts was the latest sign that M Balladur's honeymoon could be fading, not so much with the public as with his own team. All smiles and courtesy, the patrician Gaullist has scored record approval ratings in his first three weeks of power-sharing with President Mitterrand. He has moved elegantly into the driving seat.

Even M Balladur's talk of tax rises to come has failed to shake a public confidence which is also shared by the financial markets. These have called off the war on the franc and let the currency hold its value against the mark despite a drop in French interest rates over the past week.

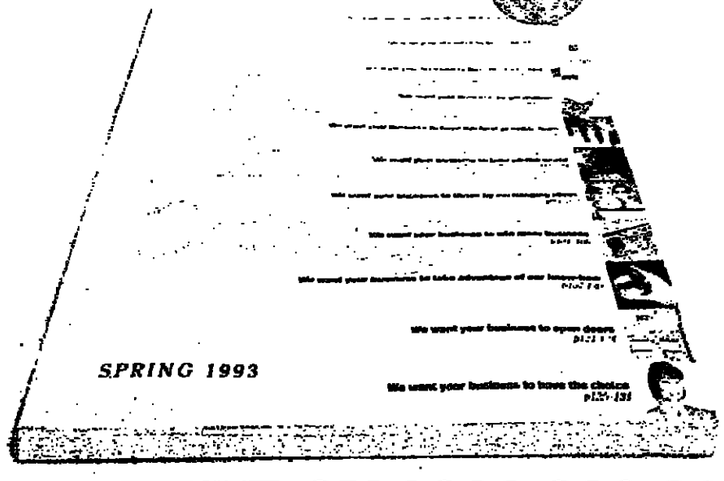
But M Balladur has also made clear that, for all his quiet talk, he carries a big stick. His most decisive move so far was to sack the Paris police chief yesterday and announce a crackdown on crime and illegal immigration. His style, depicted in the media as an "iron fist in a velvet glove", is especially upsetting the UDF, the centre-right party which is the junior partner in his government.

□ **Police shuffle:** Faced with accusations of police brutality just after it took office three weeks ago, the government has named Edouard Lacroix, 56, a former prefect of western Brittany as the new director-general of the national police, and Philippe Massoni, 57, a former head of police intelligence, as chief of the Paris police. *(AFP)*

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Home truths to ponder



MARGOT NORMAN

It is high time we filed under "myth" the notion that the extended family no longer exists in this country. Any ex-wife, ex-husband, stepmother, stepfather or step-child reading this will immediately know what I mean. So will many step-aunts, step-uncles and step-grandparents.

Every day the parents of almost 600 children divorce and there 350 re-marriages. They are all around us, these stepfamilies, their kitchen calendars dense with reminders about the scheduled movements of children between parents and step-parents. Attempts to match tact with logistics for festivals and holidays, notes of birthdays and silver wedding anniversaries for four sets of grandparents, battalions of telephone numbers for god-parents, step-aunts and step-cousins.

And yet — here's the puzzle. The stepfamily remains virtually invisible in social policy, in the national consciousness (outdated and sentimental as it is in its exclusive devotion to the nuclear family ideal), and even in dictionaries, where the word simply does not appear. You will find its members listed, with perhaps a note about wicked fairytale stepmothers, or about Hercules and how his life was shaped by his stepmother Juno's loathing of him, but no name for the social unit that binds these individuals.

Unrecognised, unguided and uncelebrated by society, stepfamilies often make the understandable but fatal mistake of trying to force themselves to fit the only conventional model available, that of the nuclear family. Too often, as is made clear in a thoughtful new book *Step By Step: Focus on Stepfamilies*, when they falter and seek help their advisers — friends, therapists, and clergy — simply reinforce that effort to become a "proper" family and unintentionally drive the would-be good step-parents into greater difficulties.

The authors, Margaret Robinson and Donna Smith, open with the bold statement: "A stepfamily exists because another family ceases to exist." The re-forming of parts of other families into a stepfamily following re-marriage, after death or divorce, is always a slow and complex business: at least one of the adults will be a stranger to the children, some members will be enduring loss and mourning while the newly married couple are on an emotional high, and unless all involved have their wits about them and some intelligent support from outside, the whole enterprise may so easily founder. More than half of all re-marriages do fail.

The strength of this book is that it explains with great subtlety and understanding how this complex new model for family life can be made to work. Robinson and Smith, who are both stepmothers of long-standing and reputable authors and family therapists, are scrupulously careful not to over-simplify.

As a stepmother who has been bumbling along instinctively in the role for eight years, making at least as many wrong moves as right ones, I confess I was initially disheartened by their analysis of the various stepfamily permutations and their particular attendant minefields.

Family therapists sometimes identify a six-stage life cycle for the nuclear family and a seven-stage cycle for the stepfamily, culminating in acceptance by all its members that it is now a "good enough" family. "The stage of the individual life cycle at which step-parents join a stepfamily will have a considerable influence on their ability to link with that family," the authors warn. The mother of adolescent children who marries a man with two toddlers, or the father of a five-year-old who marries again and expects to be in charge of discipline for his new wife's teenage children, for example, should look at this book before leaping.

Another rule upon which the authors are rightly firm is that family loyalties are the strongest kind there are and must always be respected. It hurts children to disparage the absent parent and it is always wrong to try (as step-parents often do) to write "that dreadful woman", or that "feckless father" out of the script. The greatest damage is done to children when their loyalties are divided or denied.

> We need a blessing for the stepfamily

Robinson and Smith make a good job of demolishing myths. For example: step-mothers are wicked; love happens instantly; a stepfamily can replicate a biological family; children of divorce and re-marriage are permanently damaged; children adjust more easily if their non-resident parent withdraws from contact; stepfamilies that follow death integrate more easily than those which follow divorce; stepfamilies can integrate quickly; and finally that "the perfect family" exists anywhere in some kind of honeyed aspic as an inspiration for us all.

They also tackle well the tendency of families to make a scapegoat of one member when things are going badly, and of society to make a scapegoat of the stepfamily, blaming it for social problems while over idealising the traditional nuclear family in which only 8 per cent of the population actually live.

Couples marrying for the first time receive such a blessing, a celebration and blast of social approval. I wonder whether it is time for a new ceremony to bless the stepfamily, perhaps with some new vows (for example, "I promise not to speak ill of my husband's ex-wife in the children's hearing"). The Church of England might like to add that one to its long list of things to be rethought.

Step by Step: focus on stepfamilies by Margaret Robinson and Donna Smith, published by Harvester/ Wheatsheaf, £10.95.

Homosexuals poured millions into the president's war chest — now they want their payoff. **Kate Muir** reports

GARY WAGNER



The gay battalions: homosexual veterans like these in California want President Clinton to move swiftly on his pledge to end the military ban on homosexuality

A gay army lays siege to Clinton

Not since the presidential inauguration has Washington been so packed with teeming, screaming crowds. Hotel rooms all went days ago; flights into the city ran out weeks ago. Happy restaurateurs are scenting the arrival of the "pink dollar". Almost a million demonstrators are expected to turn up this weekend for the 1993 March on Washington for gay and lesbian rights.

These are the people who poured $3.5 million (£2.2 million) into the Clinton campaign, and they expect their debt to be repaid. Now. At a similar march in 1987, 650,000 gay and lesbian supporters marched in the biggest demonstration Washington had seen; this time the stakes are higher, the crowds larger and angrier. They wish to ensure President Clinton moves swiftly on his pledge to end the military ban on homosexuality.

The six-month-long public debate on the subject has been bloody and increasingly extreme. Right-wing groups like Concerned Women for America have taken out sensational advertisements in national newspapers; hate videos have been distributed; the House of Representatives' switchboard was jammed by angry callers. One full-page advertisement in the *Washington Times* was titled "We are outraged" and included this: "It is a disgrace that those who want the military to put his *(sic)* stamp of approval on the gay lifestyle won't tell you about common homosexual practices that are DISGUSTING AND DANGEROUS. Few people know about these specific practices. Do you? If not, send in the coupon below and learn just how disgusting and dangerous gay sex really is."

The advertisement then exhorted readers to call the Senate and Congress to register their disgust at "Clinton's crass pay-off to the homosexuals".

Like some nasty sore, hatred of homosexuals has burst on to the talk-radio shows, always the source of reactionary comment. Last week, when a survey from the Alan Guttmacher Institute found that only 1 per cent of men identify themselves as homosexual, the airwaves buzzed with gloating callers. Previously, the Kinsey report found that 10 per cent of men had some homosexual experiences.

"We must not allow our nation's national security to be determined by this numerically insignificant special interest group," a caller thundered.

Such batterings have caused a great many of the "numerically insignificant" to make the effort to go to Washington, including those who normally prefer to participate by nodding to the television news at home.

Larry Kramer, the playwright and Aids activist, who is usually grudging with his optimism on such matters, says: "I've never felt such a response before — everyone is going, I don't know why — perhaps there's some reservoir of hope left about Clinton."

Mr Kramer, whose answering machine informs callers that the president is "a grade-A welcher on his Aids programmes" before it records a message, has a low opinion of the latest 1-per-cent survey. "It was conducted by people who wouldn't know a homosexual if he wore a sign. Noone has mentioned that Kinsey was gay himself, and probably had a lot more sensitivity when he interpreted data."

Randy Shilts, the author of *And the Band Played On*, a call-to-arms book on Aids, also has little truck with the new survey and doubts it will have a dampening effect on campaigners. "If a stranger with a clipboard asks, most people will say they are not gay. The 1 per cent are men who have never had sex with a woman, a criterion which would exclude a great number of us. If that figure is true, that would mean there are 2.5 million gay men in America — if you just look at the numbers attending the march you can see that's impossible."

Shilts has just finished *Conduct Unbecoming*, a 784-page book on gays and lesbians in the military to be published in America next month (and later in Britain by Penguin). He believes, despite the sound and fury on the moral right, that Mr Clinton will stick to his decision to end the policy of dismissing — or even imprisoning — homosexuals and lesbians in the military.

Although his book is about a narrow issue, of absolutely no personal interest to many anti-military people in the gay community, the principle it addresses matters. "The military rules reflect the prejudice that exists in society, and it's easier to look at that discrimination because it's written and formal," he says.

Shilts stops to take an iron supplement pill — he is HIV positive and is recovering from a lung operation. "Integration is not going to be totally easy, but the reaction will be nothing as vehement as some people suspect," he says. Most of the comments in the media and at Washington committees, he points out, come from older members of the services. Often the younger soldiers, particularly the women, "couldn't care less about what sexuality someone is".

The issue has brought homosexuality out of the political closet for another airing. Not since 1983, when the danger of Aids suddenly became clear to the world, has there been such bile expended on gay liberation. Shilts agrees there was a backlash ten years ago, but the present complaints are, to use his enemy's phrase, "numerically insignificant".

The organisers of Sunday's march point out that at least the public interest meant that stodgy, conservative middle-America sometimes got to hear both sides — the east and west coasts have always been more liberated. This year, for the first time, a gay sailor made the cover of *Newsweek*. *Angels in America*, a seven-hour play about Aids and everything else, won the Pulitzer prize. As Shilts says: "Whenever the issue gets talked about, that's progress, because the best way to keep a taboo a taboo is not to discuss it."

What future for the monarchy?

Matthew d'Ancona looks ahead to the *Times*/Charter 88 conference on a subject crucial to the nation

When the Queen gave her memorable Guildhall speech last year, it was naturally her striking allusion to Dryden and the royal "annus horribilis" that captured the imagination of headline writers. Yet that was not the true gist of her address. Far more constitutionally significant was the Queen's discreet acknowledgement that "criticism is good for people and institutions that are part of public life". After the most troubled 12 months of her 40-year reign, the sovereign herself gave her sanction to the debate on the monarchy's future.

How quickly taboos crumble under the weight of circumstance. Eighteen months ago, such a debate would have seemed unnecessary and counter-productive to all but the fiercest republicans. But the unhappy fortunes of the royal family in recent months, the Queen's decision to pay income tax and — above all — the swell of general interest in constitutional change across the political spectrum have prompted a new and largely constructive argument on the proper role of the monarchy in the next century.

On Saturday May 22, *The Times* is holding a joint conference with Charter 88 at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London to mark that debate and give it focus. It will be a chance to hear some of Britain's most distinguished writers and thinkers discuss the role of the monarchy, to join that debate from the floor, and to explore the many facets of this ancient institution. How should the monarchy relate to the Church? Do we need a head of state at all? How ought the monarchy to be covered by the media? How do the sexual politics of the royal family influence the culture of the nation? The conference will consider these and many other questions between opening and closing plenary sessions chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, and Helena Kennedy QC.



Coronation Day: the Queen with her ladies-in-waiting

Familiar as these questions are to the saloon bar pundit and dinner party chatterer, they have rarely been posed in a systematic way. *The Times* believes strongly in constitutional monarchy and in the value of public debate on the subject; our position is set out in more detail on page 21 today. Anthony Barnett, co-ordinator of Charter 88, argues that the time is ripe for "serious, adult discussion" of the nature of the British constitutional settlement.

"Constitutions symbolise a country's aspirations — what kind of society it wants to be, what future it wants to hold out for its citizens. Because we don't have a democratic constitution the monarchy fills this role and symbolises Britain as a whole," he says. "When Elizabeth was crowned 40 years ago this was hailed as the dawn of the new Elizabethan era. When Charles and Diana married at the beginning of the eighties this was celebrated as the end of stuffy consensus, and restrictions. Now the monarchy is in the unfortunate situation of symbolising a much wider failure of our governing institutions."

Apart from a small coterie of "constitutional experts" and the occasional republican, few have felt the need to comment on the state of the monarchy since the second world war. Why tinker with success, after all?

Yet in this respect the 20th century is anomalous in British history, which is replete with vigorous argument on the role of royalty and the crown. Just as Burke sparred with Paine and Whig with Tory, so the speakers at next month's conference will represent the broadest range of opinion and vision. Sue Townsend, author of *The Queen and I* and a republican, will debate in the opening plenary with Charles Moore, editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, a staunch defender of the traditional monarchy.

If we believe in the monarchy, we have to present [its] best face to the world," he said in a interview following the royal separation. "I believe in the importance of concealment in these matters and, if you like, hypocrisy." In contrast, Lord Rees-Mogg, who will speak in the closing plenary, has argued in his *Times* column that the Queen herself must "reconsider the presentation of the monarchy. The question to be asked is what the public wants: the problem is that the public likes contradictory things."

Anthony Holden, whose prose has been praised by the Prince of Wales, will look at public opinion and the monarchy with the psephologist David Butler, while Emma Nicholson MP will examine crown and church with the conservative historian Jonathan Clark. "[Institutions] hold their place in our wholly modern present for reasons which are wholly ancient," wrote Dr Clark in a recent assault on constitutional reformers. "So history demands awe before it licenses derision."

Others taking part include the novelist Marina Warner; Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, former editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*; Nicholas Coleridge, managing director of Condé Nast Publications; Tom Nairn, author of *The Enchanted Glass*; Vernon Bogdanor, fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford; Lord Holme; David Marquand, professor of politics at Sheffield University; the journalist Bea Campbell; Edward Mirzoeff, royal documentary-maker; and Bhikhu Parekh, professor of political theory at Hull University.

JOIN THE MONARCHY DEBATE

TODAY *The Times* invites its readers to attend the all-day conference on "The Monarchy, the Constitution and the People". It will be held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, London, and chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, with a host of eminent speakers taking part. If you wish to participate, cut out the coupon below and send it with a cheque to the address indicated.

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Contagious insanity

THE bizarre behaviour of the followers of David Koresh at Waco has more in common with that of the Manson family of the United States and the mass suicide of the adherents of James Jones in Guyana than it does with the recent epidemics of hysterical collapse in Cairo schoolgirls.

Dr David Enoch and Sir William Trethowan, in their fascinating book *Uncommon Psychiatric Syndromes* (John Wright), compare the 20th-century mania that afflicts cult worshippers with that of the unsophisticated followers of the deluded but charismatic Sir William Percy Honeywood Courtnay in 1838, who ardently believed in his own divine birth and inspiration. The Courtnay faithful finally became embroiled in the Brosendon riots.

Enoch and Trethowan make a case for relating the group behaviour of this sort to a condition known as *folie à plusieurs*, where a leader, however deluded, finds support from people who are usually comparatively simple, idealistic and disaffected. These followers seek self-esteem and a sense of being needed and belonging. The psychiatrists describe their need as being "to cling together against a seemingly hostile world". Characteristically in instances of *folie à plusieurs*, also known as contagious insanity, the dominant leader is often not only more deluded but has a much more powerful character, a greater authority and a greater intellect.

In many of the leaders it is found that their disturbed psyche may have resulted in failure to achieve success in an orthodox career. The leader persuades his submissive and unhappy and rather lost flock to share and strengthen his delusion which is usually that he has the power of prophecy, and sometimes that he is divine. So strong does the belief become that he is able to lead them to suicide or murder. Experience shows that the leader often displays obvious symptoms of schizophrenia or a similar condition. The mood swings and irrational changes of mind in such people makes negotiating with them exceptionally difficult.

Treatment is by separation of the leader from the led. The ringleader, who shows more frankly psychotic features, often responds well to treatment. His submissive partners, on the other hand, still have the same psycho-social problems to face as they did before they became members of the cult; those with psychiatric disease may need physical treatment; but all will benefit from prolonged rehabilitation.

Robust exercise, HRT and extra calcium deter osteoporosis

Boned up from the grave

MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttaford



Many of the people portrayed by Norwich school painters over 150 years ago appear humched and twisted, possibly because the Cromes, Cotmans and Ladbrookes were better at landscape than portraiture — but possibly because the hard manual work which their subjects endured had warped their bones and deformed their joints.

Surprisingly, although many people 90 years ago were almost bent double by a lifetime of carrying sacks, buckets or scrubbing the floors, there has been a widespread supposition among doctors that osteoporosis — the progressive decalcification of the skeleton, which produces brittle bones and predisposes to backache and arthritis — is more common now than it was during the 18th and 19th century. It is widely believed that osteoporosis is both more prevalent than it was in the past, and certainly more severe.

The *Lancet* magazine reports that doctors and archaeologists have been emulating Burke and Hare and have, in the interests of medicine, been doing a spot of grave raiding. Recent excavation of Christ Church in Spitalfields has necessitated the reburial of over 100 skeletons of people who died between 1729 and 1852; the graves were well marked and the age and occupation of the deceased recorded.

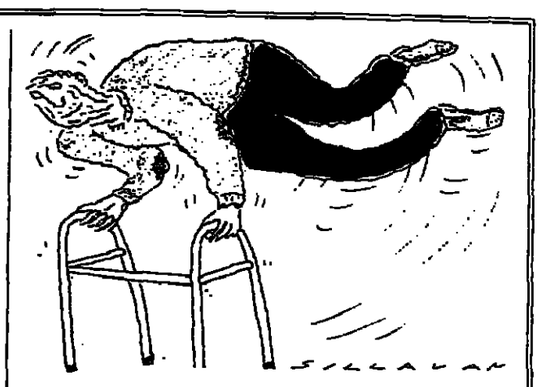
The bone density of the neck of the femur, the thigh bone of the disinterred women, was compared with that of women alive today, who were of similar age and occupation.

It seems that in the late 20th century thinning of the bones does indeed start earlier than it did 150 to 200 years ago. Bone density was greater in the presumably undernourished and overworked than it is now. Once the menopause had occurred, both the women from Spitalfields and their present day counterparts lost bone at equal rates, but as the Spitalfield women had had the advantage of stronger bone laid down in their youth so they suffered less from osteoporosis when they reached their seventies than do their contemporaries.

The value of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) over the menopausal years is now well established. But there are women who either should not or do not wish to have HRT, and doubts have been expressed of the value to these women of taking extra calcium.

It is frequently alleged that a well balanced diet should provide all the calcium a woman needs. However, a recent New Zealand study reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* showed that supplements of one gram of effervescent calcium a day resulted in a marked reduction in the rate of bone loss in the lower limbs, and even some increase in bony density in the bones of the lower back.

The Spitalfield research suggests that if women are to evade osteoporosis they need vigorous if not violent exercise and the New Zealand experiment shows that calcium and HRT are beneficial.



Active side of happiness

NOBODY doubts that elderly patients remain intellectually active longer if they are stimulated by their surroundings. There is evidence from experiments with rats that animal brains actually show less physical and anatomical deterioration if they regularly have to perform tasks requiring thought. Similar experiments are of course possible in human medicine.

The Journal of Gerontology has recently reported on the influence of regular exercise on the intellectual prowess of the over-sixties; the patients' ages in the investigation range from 60 to 73.

After a very detailed physical examination the psyche was tested. In particular short and long-term memory was measured, together with attention span and the ability to reason.

Volunteers were put through an increasingly rigorous training programme which lasted over 12 months. Monitoring showed that the cardiovascular system improved considerably with exercise but surprisingly there was no objective improvement in intellectual capabilities. There was evidence, however, that the exercised patients felt better and were much more cheerful.

It seems that taking exercise will not help *The Times*'s more elderly readers to finish the crossword, but they may not feel so bad about it when they fail to solve the clues.

Aileen Ballantyne on the renewed threat of TB in rich countries

An old scourge returns

Passengers are being contacted by an airline after the case of an air hostess with tuberculosis who passed on the infectious bacteria to at least two crew members.

Details of the case, which have been given to the *The Times* by the United States government disease prevention agency, the Centres for Disease Control (CDC), are to be publicly reported for the first time today at an international meeting of epidemiologists at the CDC's headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia.

The airline, which the CDC has named, is Continental, one of America's leading domestic carriers. It is co-operating with the CDC in the first formal investigation of its type, to try to gauge the risk to airline passengers from the disease. There has recently been a dramatic resurgence in TB the United States, and it is also returning, to a lesser extent, in Britain. It is understood that frequent fliers with Continental are to be contacted.

The World Health Organisation, while making certain not to exaggerate the risk to ordinary passengers, is clearly secretly pleased that a disease seen by most as restricted to overcrowded slum dwellings, Aids victims, the homeless, drug addicts and the Third World, has finally made more privileged people sit up and take notice.

Mr Richard Bumgarner, senior manager of the WHO's tuberculosis programme, said the airline case showed that TB had an impact on everyone and could not be controlled by political boundaries or border controls. "This means that it doesn't matter if you are affluent are not," he said. "You can still be affected by this disease."

TB, which was responsible for about a quarter of all deaths in Europe in the mid 19th century, declined steadily in the developed world since effective treatments were found in the 1950s. But the disease which ravaged Keats and claimed the life of George Orwell is now increasing rapidly in the United States due to the combined effects of the Aids epidemic, poverty and homelessness.

There were more than 26,000 cases of TB in the US last year — an increase of 18 per cent in six years. In England and Wales, too, the steady decline in TB since the early 1950s has come to a halt and the past three years have seen cases increase from 5,500 to 6,000.

TB is rarely fatal in otherwise healthy people living in developed countries, but in international terms, it remains the leading cause of death from a single infectious agent. Although much less infectious than the common cold, it can nevertheless be transmitted by close contact, particularly in confined and overcrowded conditions.

As a result of the resurgence of the disease in Britain and America, tuberculosis experts in both countries are discussing with airlines how much of the air we breathe on a plane is fresh and how much is simply re-circulated. At present, this varies from company to company according to the engineering of the aircraft. The two members of the airline crew who flew with the stewardess do not have active disease, but have been infected with TB bacteria, which gives them up to a one in ten chance of developing TB at some point in their lives.

Although there are only two documented cases of infection among crew members who flew with the stewardess, the actual number of cases may be much higher. The CDC conducted a research trial which involved the 274 crew members who flew with the stewardess between May and October last year when she was showing symptoms of the disease in the form of a cough. This study showed the 43 crew members who flew with her between August and October last year — nearest to the date when she was diagnosed — were nearly six times more likely to be infected with TB bacteria than a comparable "control" group of airline crew members who did not fly on the same flights. Of the 43, nearly one in three — 13 in total — tested positive for the infection, compared with only one in 20 in the control group.

The CDC says the risk of infection of all crew members was increased in those who flew most often with the stewardess, but stressed that, as yet, it had no way of gauging the risk of contracting TB on an aircraft.

"We are concerned about the transmission of TB, wherever it occurs," a CDC spokeswoman said. "But there is no firm data on the possibility of transmitting TB on an aircraft. The risk is not quantifiable."

She emphasised that the airline was in no way to blame for the incident and said it was co-operating fully with the CDS investigation. A spokeswoman for Continental, which is based in Texas, confirmed that the incident had occurred, but emphasised that it was some time ago and added that "no passenger should be concerned".

Leading TB experts in Britain stress that the chance of becoming infected with the disease by simply flying on an aircraft with an infected person is likely to be extremely low. Even though it is a confined space, most infections occur through prolonged close contact at work or in the same household. Dr Peter Ormerod, consultant chest physician and secretary of the Joint Tuberculosis Committee of the British Thoracic Society, said that for passengers on Tube trains or aircraft the chances of contracting TB were "less likely than being knocked over crossing the street. What are we supposed to do about it in any case? We can't X-ray everyone before they get on a plane, nor can we simply give up flying. Neither of these are realistic options."

He believed the case showed that America was reaping the harvest of the Reagan administration's cutbacks on health care.

The increase in multi-drug resistant cases in the United States is worrying doctors, although the airline case was not one of these. One recent study in New York showed that 19 per cent of new cases of TB there were now resistant to two of the key drugs doctors use. In Britain, such cases make up less than 1 per cent of the total of new cases.

The dangerous phenomenon of drug-resistant TB has arisen because of a breakdown in the essential follow-up health-care system for those infected. Most TB in the US occurs among the homeless, drug addicts and those with Aids, and the essential back-up system to ensure that those infected take antibiotic treatment for at least six months has failed. If antibiotic treatment for TB is started and then stopped when the sufferer simply begins to feel better, there is a high risk that he or she will develop a much more virulent drug resistant strain of the disease.

"They have turned a disease that was once treatable into one that is multi-drug resistant because they have downgraded the control system," Dr Ormerod said.

Some TB experts are also concerned that, although Britain does not have such a problem now, it could emerge in future if we allow our guard to drop. Dr Arata Kochi, manager of the World Health Organisation's tuberculosis programme, who is in London today for a WHO meeting aimed at devising new strategies to counter the world epidemic of TB, told *The Times* that due to increased world travel it would be impossible to control TB in Britain unless it was first controlled in the developing world.

"While tuberculosis was once on the decline in Great Britain, that is no longer the case. I frankly don't believe that the dangers of this disease are widely appreciated by Britain's policy makers," he said.

Already, several health authorities in Britain have dropped the BCG vaccination programme for 11 to 13-year-olds on the grounds that there are only a small number of cases of TB in their areas every year. Although no such vaccination programme exists in America, British experts agree that being vaccinated against TB gives you about 80 per cent protection against the disease.

"Many of the health authorities taking these measures are in the south of England and have very low numbers of ethnic minorities," Dr Ormerod said. "But just because you were born in the shire counties, it does not mean you will never leave there and will never be exposed to TB. The world, after all, is only a jet ride away."



SPECTRUM

Airborne risk? The case of an infected air stewardess should dispel our complacency

> The disease that ravaged Keats is now increasing rapidly in America due to Aids, poverty and homelessness

In search of psychic talents

> An American sceptic heads a university's attempt to prove that ESP exists

Britain's sole professional academic "ghost-buster" is keeping an open mind about the existence of God, or a supernatural being. What he is a lot more certain about is the existence of communication using only the human mind and the techniques of telepathy, clairvoyance and extra-sensory perception. Bob Morris's full-time job as Britain's only professor of parapsychology involves proving the existence of psychic phenomena.

Professor Morris is surprisingly normal for a man who spends much of his time experimenting with people lying in soundproofed rooms trying to interpret mental signals from researchers in another room.

For the last seven years at the University of Edinburgh he has been picking his way gingerly through a minefield of academic prejudice, trickery, preconceived ideas and the limitations of existing scientific systems for measuring psychic happenings.

It is ten years since the writer Arthur Koestler and his wife Cynthia entered into a joint suicide pact and left a bequest to establish a chair in parapsychology at a British university. When Edinburgh won the chair, the panel interviewing for someone to fill it must have breathed a sigh of relief when Professor Morris, from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, walked through the door. The panel wanted a conservative, sceptical approach to the subject and with him that is just what they got.

The acceptance of his subject among the scientific community was boosted on Sunday when more than 200 turned up for a one-day conference on parapsychology at Edinburgh International Science Festival. Even the sceptics had to concede that there seemed to be something to it.

There have been no sudden breakthroughs but Professor Morris now declares himself 90 per cent certain that a new way of communicating exists. "It's very hard to say whether people in future will be able to communicate at will by using ESP but I think there is definitely something there.

"There are certain kinds of emotional communication that if they were overlaid on an ordinary conversation would help the communication go more smoothly. It could help in counselling, for example.

"People want to be able to communicate with others who have gone for a while. The child who has wandered off on its own is the classic example. However, we don't think this kind of thing will eventually replace the telephone."

Professor Morris admits that about a third of his colleagues in the psychology department at the university consider his work "rather silly". He justifies his studies by saying it is important to understand as fully as we can all the different ways we interact with our environment. "If we leave something out we are impoverished." In addition to attempting to prove the existence of ESP, Professor Morris is involved in disproving things which look psychic but are not. "We are making a lot of progress understanding the strategies of fraud," he says.

He never works with people who charge for their services and insists on the anonymity of those he does work with. "We're looking for people who feel they have had psychic experiences in the past and feel comfortable with the possibility that they have such abilities. We don't work with people who have been under psychiatric care".

He has found some people who seem better able to communicate psychically than others. Whether everyone has the potential for communicating psychically, he is not sure. "Capacity and ability are two different things".

He first became interested in parapsychology at the age of 12, discovering an aluminium box with a series of coloured marbles in a cupboard. His parents had made it to test psychic abilities. The shortage of scientific work on the subject bothered him and he did his thesis at Duke University, in America, where much of the existing research into parapsychology had been done.

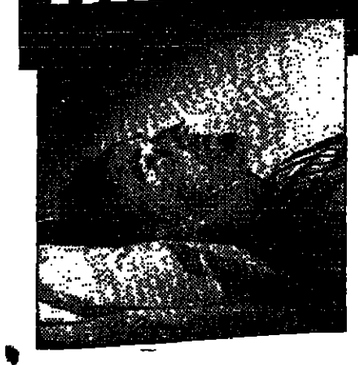
Although brought up with Christian beliefs, Professor Morris says he is agnostic about the supernatural. "What we are exploring here is the natural world. We keep in touch with theologians but leave the supernatural up to them."

GILLIAN BOWDITCH



Making links: Bob Morris has some certainties but does not believe telepathy will replace telephone calls

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An effective new boss for the tourist industry might quell industry doubts about government support. **Peter Victor** reports

Who can boost Britain's tourism?



STEPHEN MARKESON

Overseas visitors at Buckingham Palace this week. Tourism is a big foreign currency earner for Britain but the government may not be giving it enough support

The government is expected within days to announce the name of a new boss for Britain's £25 billion-a-year tourist industry. By today, the last four candidates selected by a firm of head-hunters will have been scrutinised by a panel from the national heritage department.

Meanwhile, John Jarvis, the English Tourist Board's temporary chairman, will today present the government with an independent consultants' report backing his board's claims for more government finance.

The announcement of the appointment of a new chairman for both the board and the British Tourist Authority will be welcome, coming amid growing disquiet at what many see as the government's laissez-faire attitude to the tourist industry. William Davis, the former chairman of the authority and the board, resigned at the start of this year, saying that since the government was not prepared to take the industry seriously, he was not prepared to battle on.

At about the same time, Michael Medlicott, the chief executive of the board, left to join Delta, the American airline. The government failed to find a successor who could combine Mr Davis's two roles, and appointed a management consultant to head-hunt one while two temporary appointees were hired.

Mr Davis's dramatic exit is viewed as symptomatic of the troubled relationship between the government and tourist trade. Appointed chairman of the authority and the board in 1990, Mr Davis, a publishing millionaire, aimed to persuade the government of the need for a radically new approach. He is known to have disagreed strongly with the views of David Mellor, the first heritage secretary, who questioned whether the government should support tourism at all. The last straw came with the announcement that the authority's grants were to rise from £31.2 million last year to only £33.5 million in three years' time, while the board's 1992-3 grant of £15.4 million would be cut to £9 million by 1995-6.

Tourism leaders say that cutbacks at the board will affect projects jointly funded with the authority. Part of the problem is that the domestic tourism industry contains many small businesses competing for market share. "They are not increasing the size of the market," a board insider says. "A national approach is needed." The board also has a role in information-gathering and co-ordinating. "Everything is fragmented," the board staffer adds. "There are 64,000 providers of accommodation, 10,000 visitor attractions and 7,000 events, which makes co-ordination difficult."

> 'A national approach is what is needed'

Critics of the present system for tourism claim that because Welsh, Irish and Scottish tourism are supported by their government offices, England is at a disadvantage. Though its subsidy per head of population is 41p, for Scotland the figure is £3.28, for Wales £5.87 and for Northern Ireland £9.79.

While Britain earns more than £8 billion a year from overseas visitors, UK residents now spend £10 billion abroad. The authority estimates that the income from overseas visitors could rise by another £4 billion over the next few years.

Few hold out much hope of a co-ordinated strategy. Many were disappointed by last month's House of Commons tourism debate, the first since 1988. Robert Key, a junior heritage minister, was criticised for proposing that hanging out Union Jacks would be a good way to lure tourists from overseas. Many concluded that the government simply did not care. A heritage department spokesman denies this. "It is not right to say that of the government," he says. "But we have to find the right person for this job. I am sure the industry would prefer that we did this rather than rush in and appoint someone unsuitable."

> Nobody will say who is being shortlisted

The heritage department says that the whole of Britain's £1 billion heritage budget is, in effect, supporting the tourism industry.

Nobody will discuss who is being shortlisted for the post, although several names are said to have been considered. John Lee, a former tourism minister who is now chairman of Manchester's science and industry museum, is thought to have been a popular candidate, but now seems less likely. Lady Cobham, a former special adviser to Mr Mellor, is another name. Richard Branson has also been mentioned.

Whoever is appointed will be expected to fight tourism's corner. John Lewis, a solicitor and leisure company director, has maintained a relatively low profile during his temporary stint at the head of the authority.

John Jarvis, chairman of Jarvis Hotels and the longest-serving member of the board, has already made his mark there, despite the temporary nature of his tenure. Mr Jarvis will today present a report by independent consultants backing board claims for more funding for specific projects.

He says that the government is mistaken if it thinks tourism can be supported for £9 million. The report is likely to surprise many, both inside the domestic tourist trade and in the heritage department. This amuses Mr Jarvis. "If anyone thought that John Jarvis was going to sit still for his time in the chair", he says, "they were wrong."

Channel fare myths

Comparing cross-Channel ferry fares is such a complicated business that Brittany Ferries hired a research company to do it for them, and is now launching a £1 million advertising campaign to publicise the results.

The survey, by HPI Research, contests the common assumption that longer crossings on the western Channel must cost more.

In 88 per cent of cases, Brittany claims, two adults and a car travelling to France before July 14 and after August 24 will cross more cheaply with Brittany than on any Dover-Calais service between 05.30 and 00.45.

In the peak season, between July 14 and August 24, travellers planning to spend up to ten days in France, Brittany says, will find, in more than two-thirds of cases, that it is cheaper to travel on its western services than on any Dover-Calais crossing between 08.30 and 18.30.

The company also says that when likely ferry travellers were asked to estimate fares, all respondents significantly under-estimated the cost on the Dover-Calais and Ramsgate-Dunkirk routes, while over-estimating for Portsmouth, Poole and Plymouth to Caen, Cherbourg, St Malo and Roscoff.

Ian Carruthers, UK managing director of Brittany Ferries, says motoring holiday operators have promoted the myth that shorter crossings must be cheaper by including them in their package prices, and charging a premium for other routes. "Our routes also avoid the tedious and costly drive from Calais to reach the main holiday areas of France," he says.

ROBIN YOUNG

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Golfers declared out of bounds

The proliferation of courses is being condemned as an environmental disaster

The environmental damage caused by the booming popularity of golf and the worldwide growth in the number of courses will be fiercely attacked this weekend at an international conference in Penang.

According to a pressure group set up to counter the spread of courses, golf tourism is now growing at a worrying rate and affecting many exotic and unspoilt areas.

To try to spread the message about the environmental and social damage that can be caused, the group plans a series of protest activities when the conference ends next Thursday, which it has designated "World No Golf Day".

The group, the Global network for anti-golf course action, was formed in Japan after residents near a newly opened course found their water had turned red because of the pesticides used to keep the fairways clear.

In Japan there are 1,850 golf courses in operation, 300 more under construction and an additional 1,000 planned to serve the 20 million players in the country. The group claims to have prevented the building of a further 100 courses. Now environmental organisations from around the world have joined the network.

Most of the world's golf courses, says the organisation, are concentrated in Japan, Hawaii, California, Australia and South East Asia. Golf course development is, however, now spreading fast through Europe, Central and South America, the Pacific Islands, the Caribbean and even to former communist countries. The group estimates that there are 24,000 courses worldwide.

There are two million regular golfers in Britain, which has more than half of Europe's 3,687 golf courses. A further 1,900 UK course proposals were put forward in 1991.

"The impact of golf is most severe in Third World countries," said Tricia Barnett, co-ordinator of the British environmental group Tourism Concern. "Given the serious problems golf has caused in other countries we should also be very concerned about the potential damage in the UK.

"We are asking people who play golf abroad to think very carefully about it. Golf courses, particularly in developing countries, frequently force local people out of their homes and off their land, pollute the environment with toxic fertilisers and use up valuable natural resources like water. No one can justify playing a game that causes such severe problems."

Richard Hills, managing director of the PGA European Tour properties, says: "We as a sporting body with golf course developments throughout Europe are incredibly sensitive to the issues they are raising. We are fully in favour of legislation which makes courses environmentally friendly and always have someone with us who tells us what we can and cannot do. Throughout Europe the rules are very tough and we ensure that we stick rigidly to them, but the demand for golf is there so there is always pressure from both sides."

HARVEY ELLIOTT



Golf: for some, a pleasant pastime; for others, an environmental evil

TRAVELOGS

Taste of the West

TONY Rhodes, proprietor of a small country hotel, Fairfield House in Williton, Somerset (0984 632636), claims to provide one of the best value breaks in the West country with a three night "Taste of Somerset" package including full breakfast and four-course dinner for £90 per person.

"Our meals are cooked by the chef/proprietor using local fresh ingredients such as free range bacon, pork and Gressingham ducks and, of course, the best Somerset cheese and fresh vegetables. We have local draught beer, Taunton cider and even English wines from Staplecombe. After dinner guests can listen to early jazz records played on an old wind-up gramophone in the bar."

The hotel also provides advice on the best places to visit with maps of tours and of walks in the Quantocks and Exmoor. Why go abroad?

Iraq bound

A LONDON tour guide and historian is arranging what is believed to be Europe's first group tour to Iraqi Kurdistan. The two-week trip, early next month, will include a visit to one of Saddam Hussein's abandoned palaces and to Arbil, the oldest continually inhabited city in the world. The organiser, Fran Hazelton, has made several trips to the region, and reports an warm welcome. She says that the region's recent traumas mean people often forget "that there is a long history of tourism in the area, because of the beauty of the landscape and its relatively cool climate". The cost of the fortnight is £800. Further details, 071-278 3624.

Risk limitation

OWNERS of homes abroad can now insure against the risk of having to make emergency trips to their properties in the event of flood, fire or other damage. The Home Owners Abroad Emergency Travel Policy produced by Marcus Hearn & Co (071-739 3444) will provide cover for travelling expenses up to £1,000, accommodation up to £500 and miscellaneous expenses of up to £100. The cost for the package is £15 a year.

Making tracks

SHELL UK is joining with British Rail in a promotion aimed at tempting motorists to try the train. One token will be given for every 12 litres of petrol; 15 can be exchanged for two InterCity Saver tickets for the price of one.

It's a plot

GREENER Gifts Ltd (0454-320522) is selling 36 sq ft plots of land on river banks at sites in the Cotswolds and Warwickshire. The £30 plots will be planted with broadleaf trees of the buyers' choice. Owners will receive deeds of ownership entitling them to use their small plots as picnic spots and giving them rights to use the whole area for walking.

Musical cruise

P&O Cruises (071-831 1331) is organising two music festivals at sea, hosted by Richard Baker, the presenter, with a range of programmes including piano trios, chamber music and opera. The £1,750 cruises on board the Sea Princess leave from Southampton. The first departs on June 14 to the Baltic. The second, in October, is to the "classical lands" of the Mediterranean.

Travel News is edited by Harvey Elliott

Egypt's lure is strong

British visitors are undeterred by the threat of attack by extremists

British tourists are refusing to be deterred from visiting Egypt, unlike visitors from other countries who have been frightened off by reports of attacks by Muslim extremists.

While arrivals from mainland Europe are well down, and those from America have virtually ceased, figures from the Egyptian embassy in London show a remarkable resilience among Britons.

In January this year, Egypt had 22,020 British visitors, up by 44 per cent on the previous January. February saw more than 18,300 and early figures for March are also encouraging, the embassy said.

Egypt has proved an increasingly popular destination for British tourists. A total of 316,805 went there last year compared with 113,465 in 1987, 215,765 in 1990 and 167,095 in 1991 immediately after the Gulf war.

At Luxor airport last week, there was certainly no sign of jitters among the 800 British tourists who had landed within half an hour on three jets — or from the authorities.

Nonetheless, the country's tourist industry appears to be heading into a downward spiral for the second time in under three years and Egyptians are particularly grateful that the British, at least, are still visiting in reasonable numbers. According to local people, the experience the British have gained living under the threat of IRA bombs has given them a *sang-froid* others do not share.

It is also claimed that despite the publicity given to Egypt's extremists, violence has flared more dramatically in New Orleans and Florida.

All is far from well, however, and the Cairo government is finding it difficult to counteract the activities of militants, who are maintaining a low-level campaign of violence which causes few casualties but keeps the government under pressure.

At risk is a tourist industry worth more than £2 billion. Egypt has only 55,000 tourist beds, including those on Nile cruises, such as Thomas Cook's two chartered boats, and occupancy rates last year were enviable. They averaged 75 per cent, far higher than in most European destinations. The figure so far this year is lower but prices may be lower too, keeping numbers up.

Nagia Erian, owner of the two Thomas Cook boats, is now building another. He said: "The government is doing a tremendous amount out of the public gaze to make sure that tourists are safe."

Salah el Derwy, special adviser to the ministry of tourism said: "We have discovered only 10 per cent of the wealth of Egyptian antiquity — the rest is still under the sand. So the show will continue to roll."

MARGARET BAXTER

Head for the glens

American tourists are returning to Scotland after several years of staying away. The fall in the number of visitors from within the UK, however, has still to be reversed. Last year, the domestic market declined by 4 per cent and, although the number of overseas visitors rose, the total number of tourists fell by 1 per cent.

The Scottish Tourist Board is optimistic that a £3 million campaign to market Scotland south of the border will do the trick. Speaking at Scotland's Travel Fair in Glasgow last week, Ian Grant, the chairman of the STB, said that he believed there was an air of optimism in the industry.

Tourism is worth £1.7 billion to Scotland. Last year, 10 per cent of trips, worth £135 million, were booked through the travel trade, twice as many as trips to England and Wales. Mr Grant said he would like to see more co-operation between transport, accommodation and visitor-attraction operators to ensure quality and value.

A new association, The Independent Backpackers Hostels of Scotland, was formed during the fair by 38 independently owned hostels to promote budget accommodation. More than 30,000 copies of its leaflet will be distributed in London, via the Scottish Tourist Board, and overseas through the British Tourist Authority. The hostels charge about £7 a night.

The fair coincided with a new publication from the Scottish Office which shows that small tourist establishments in Scotland generate more local income and employment than their bigger counterparts. This is mainly because smaller establishments do not have centralised buying.

The Scottish Tourism Multiplier Study found that, on average, every £1,000 spent by UK-resident tourists in Edinburgh, generated £346 of local income and £127 of income in the rest of Scotland. For every £27,000 spent by domestic tourists in the city, one new job is created. In 1990, £276 million is estimated to have been spent by domestic and overseas tourists in Edinburgh.

GILLIAN BOWDITCH

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All dressed up and ready for Monaco's party

The grand prix is the cherry on the cake of the principality's season, **Tony Rocca** reports

Monaco is gearing up for its annual moment of glory, a raucous merry-go-round of burnt rubber, lobster and champagne which, arguably, tops both the motor racing and social calendars of the world. Tourist officials are confidently predicting that one month from now there will be hardly a bed available in town as the principality comes under the starter's flag for its 51st grand prix.

Eighty-five thousand visitors are expected in the world's smallest secular state, only a third bigger than London's Hyde Park but home to a population of 27,000, of whom only 4,500 are Monégasque citizens.

This year's event, 78 circuits of the now familiar streets, promises to be even more exciting than usual as it coincides with the last day of the Cannes Film Festival just down the coast — the "other" event of the Riviera year, where a young Prince Rainier met Grace Kelly.

Loews Hotel, facing the hairpin "Loews Corner", has no problem in filling its rooms despite tariffs of £500 a night, half-board, for a double room and up to £1,700 a night for a suite, with a minimum stay of six nights in either case. A restaurant overlooking the course is advertising all you can eat and drink at lunchtime on race day and the preceding day of trials for "just" £365 a head.

The number of yachts crowding into the twin ports of Fontvieille and La Condamine is so great that they are obliged to double-park outside the harbour, forming the marine equivalent of a traffic jam. Although this year's haggling over rented flats overlooking the course has only just begun, precedent is such that one apartment owner was able to extract £30,000 from someone hosting a party for 150 guests over two days. His neighbour charged Renault £8,000 just for the few hours of the race itself.

If you want to play the Monaco game you must be "seen" during the grand prix weekend, at the Monaco Open tennis, at the Circus Gala, and at the principality's two famous balls — de la Rose, and de la Croix Rouge.

For the grand prix, the venue for making an appearance is undoubtedly the terrace of the Hôtel de Paris. Here, and in the hotel's American Bar, will be gathered the highest concentration of jewels per square metre on earth. Outside the hotel's revolving doors the scene owes as much to Disney as to *Dynasty* — if you can see it behind the glittering rows of Ferraris, Rolls-Royces, Bentleys, Mercedes-Benzs and BMWs.

There was a hiatus two years ago, when the usual run of millionaires and heiresses making their entrances and exits across the glittering stage dried up because of the Gulf war.

After that, the principality had another attack of nerves, having to contend with an invasion of charabanc parties from former Eastern block countries — buses full of people who had read about this Western wonderland where people pay no income tax, and wanted to reach out and touch it. These were, however, "people who bring their own lunch".

Somehow Monaco has survived the economic blast which brought, however briefly, such horrors. Today, trippers in T-shirts, jeans and thongs are given very short shrift by white-uniformed constables patrolling the picture-postcard Casino Square. To the delight of the beau monde, the principality has regained its sense of exclusivity for the moneyed classes.

Now, all Monaco can shop again in reverential, scented silence in the temples of *haute couture* on the Avenue des Beaux Arts, where the light bulbs are sprayed with perfume each morning to exude comforting designer smells guaranteed to make you open your cheque book.

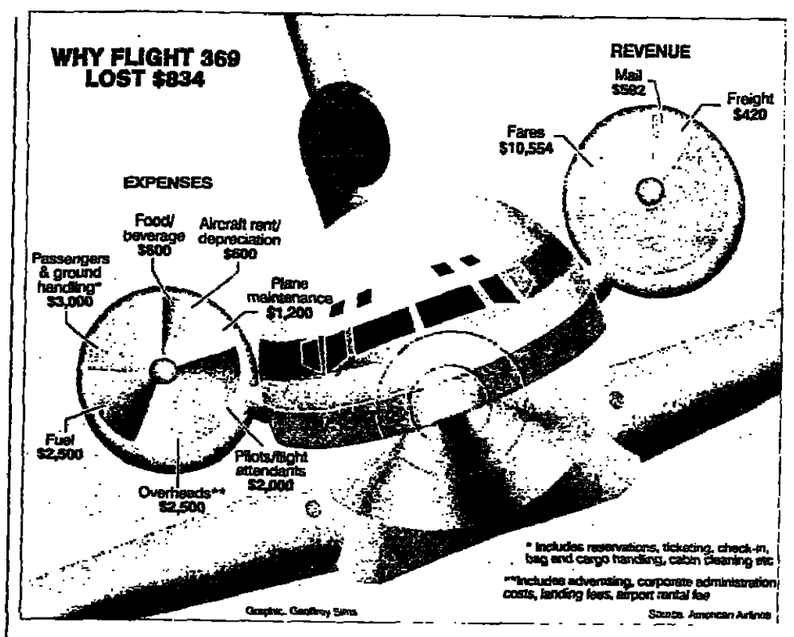
Confidence has returned to this sunny lotus land so unashamedly dedicated to the pleasures of the senses and the simultaneous pursuit of happiness and money. It has achieved these seemingly disparate goals with the greatest of ease, despite the tinge of tragedy attaching to the widower prince who surveys all from the pink castle on the rocks high above the sea.

There is no end to the queue of high rollers waiting to be admitted for cosseting and nourishment. Under the stewardship of Prince Rainier, Monaco has also become a highly successful business centre. More banks are concentrated here than anywhere else on earth. For this, is a place where money is taken very seriously and "business tourism", property development, commerce and industry take precedence. Despite the renown of the casino in Monte Carlo, gambling furnishes less than 5 per cent of the state budget.

A new pier is in prospect, meaning that cruise passengers will no longer have to be ferried ashore by tender as they are today. A new road has been opened, connecting the principality to Europe's motorway system for the first time, so that a journey to this mini Hong Kong clinging vertiginously to the overhang of France is no longer the daunting prospect it once was.



Party time: Monaco is getting ready for its annual bash



How Flight 369 shed dollars in the air

Airlines have lost millions, but where has the money gone, asks **Harvey Elliott**

By the time Flight 369 landed at Dallas after a 928-mile journey from Tampa, it had lost $834, contributing to the deficit of $935 million run up by American Airlines last year. That two-and-a-half hour flight epitomised the financial problems facing the world's airlines which together lost a total of $7 billion last year.

Airlines in the United States were worst hit and three carriers there are now flying only under the protection of the notorious "Chapter 11" US bankruptcy laws.

In Europe only British Airways could claim to have a healthy balance sheet and many airlines are expected to be forced to close or merge this year. Yet passenger numbers are going up.

What has gone wrong? The reality is that airline passengers have become accustomed to paying rock-bottom prices and have learnt sophisticated techniques for ensuring that they continue to do so. Computer reservation systems allow travel agents to see at the touch of a button what every airline is charging on a particular route.

No airline is allowed to have a price advantage for more than a few hours before every competitor matches its rates.

Just how much damage this does to the bottom line of an airline's balance sheet is often difficult to judge. But American Airlines is now so worried that it co-operated in explaining how one aircraft on the journey from Tampa to Dallas on September 29 last year was filled and what prices passengers paid.

The Times asked British Airways, Virgin and British Midland if they could produce similar details for a British flight. All refused, claiming "commercial confidentiality".

The *St Petersburg Times*, which published the details of Flight 369, describes it as "the story of the airline industry's struggle in the 1990s". The flight cost American $12,400 (about £8,300) to put on. The revenue received came to $11,566. The airline therefore made a loss of $834.

"The winners on Flight 369 were the pasengers who got the rock-bottom fares," the *St Petersburg Times* says. "The loser was American. The flight not only lost money on September 29, it lost money throughout September. A company audit showed that the flight lost an average of $2,400 a day."

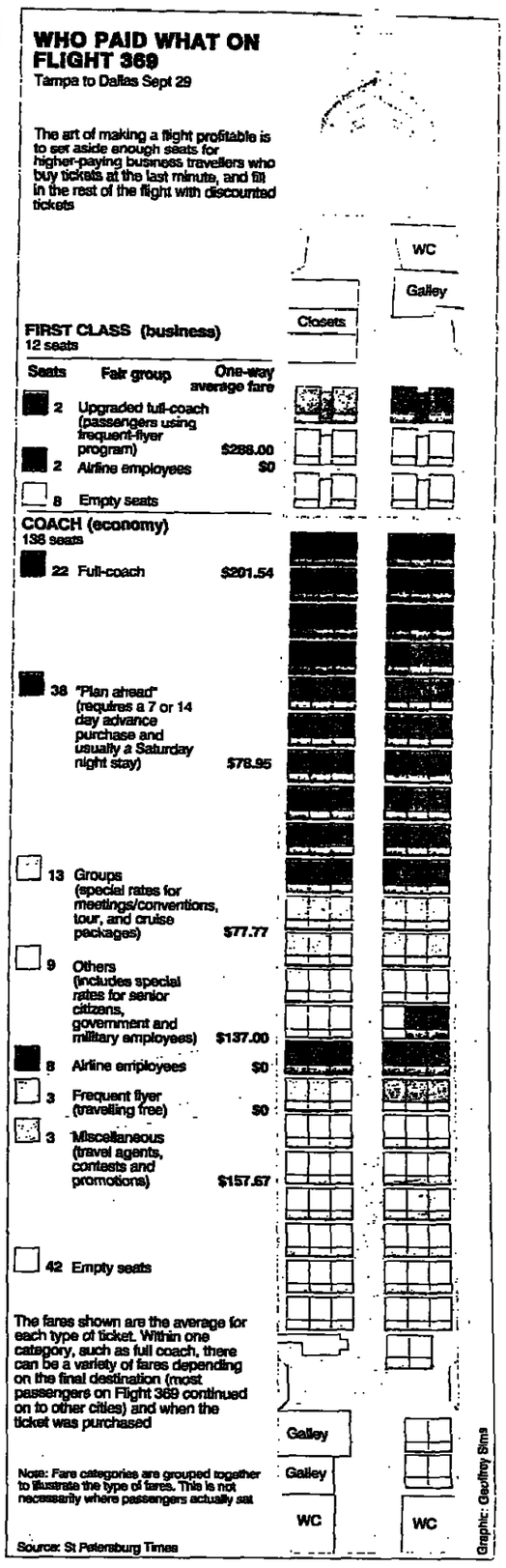
The Boeing 727-300 has 150 seats and on the day in question 100 were filled. Nobody had paid the full $390 first class fare but two people had paid the $288 economy price and were up-graded to first. They joined two airline employees who had paid nothing.

In the rest of the cabin some had paid $201 and some as little as $77.77. A combination of ten airline employees and three frequent flyers making use of vouchers meant that 13 per cent of the seats filled brought in no revenue at all.

The other fares were effectively set by the airline's computer, known as DINAMO. Every airline now uses something similar to predict demand, ensure that there is space available for the full fare-paying passenger and to constantly adjust the number of cut-priced seats offered. Using the latest yield management techniques, each airline ensures that it has sold as many full-priced tickets as possible before creating a new cut-priced fare.

An agent might be asked by a client for a seat on a flight which officially would cost £300. The retailer would contact a wholesaler who would buy it from the airline for £160 and sell it on for £180. The agency would add its own profit of slightly more than 10 per cent and sell it to the customer for £200. The price often falls further as the take-off date nears, as the airline tries to off-load empty seats.

All airlines are doing it and at first sight it can seem a winner. Yet, as the *St Petersburg Times* says: "Consumers win now but they might pay more in the long run if more airlines go out of business."



A guide to eating out in Europe

There is culinary life outside the EC, but only just, according to the 1993 edition of the Michelin Red Guide *Main Cities Europe*.

The book, newly published at £10.95, gives a selection of hotels and restaurants in 63 major cities chosen for their commercial and touristic importance, and spans 18 countries, including eight which do not have a Red Guide of their own and six outside the EC.

The vast majority of 413 starred restaurants among the 2,500 hotels and 1,963 restaurants recommended in the book are in EC countries which do already have Red Guide coverage, but a smattering remain for outsiders.

In the gastronomic equivalent of a Eurovision song contest which France is guaranteed to win every time, Finland, Greece and Hungary still suffer the ignominy of scoring *nul points* apiece, not having a single starred restaurant anywhere near Helsinki, Athens or Budapest.

The United Kingdom musters 18 stars in London, and another seven in "neighbouring towns", as far afield as Reading and Oxford. No stars are designated in or around Birmingham, Edinburgh, Manchester, Glasgow, Leeds or Liverpool. Dublin has one starred establishment.

While Denmark has lost one starred restaurant in Copenhagen since last year, Norway improves its score of stars in and around Oslo from three to four. Sweden improves its total in the neighbourhoods of Stockholm and Gothenburg from eight to nine.

Switzerland, for which a Michelin Red Guide is now in the advanced stages of preparation, makes the most rapid progress, improving its total score of stars in and around Basle, Geneva and Zurich from 17 to 21 since last year.

In total the guide lists 31 three-star restaurants, 117 two-star and 265 with a single star.

ROBIN YOUNG

Off to the beach

SOMAK Travel (081-903 8166) is offering two weeks at the Plaza Hotel, Shanzu beach, on the Kenyan coast between now and June 21 for £299 per person including half-board accommodation, return flights and transfers.

☐ ART lovers can make an eight-day tour of châteaux, Gallo-Romanesque cathedrals and historical town, cities and sites in Champagne and Burgundy in September for £975 based on two people sharing. The tour, organised by Classic Country Tours (0342 832770), includes eight nights accommodation, dinner, bed and breakfast, transport, the services of a qualified guide and all entrance fees.

☐ TRAVELBAG (0420 88724) has return flights to Bangkok on Qantas at £477.

☐ TWO weeks in Florida inclusive of flights, airport tax, car hire and accommodation are available through Chieftain Tours (071-381 6655) for £399 during May. Non-stop flights to Orlando depart from Gatwick, Manchester and Glasgow and accommodation is at the Colony Plaza in Orlando or the Best Western Hotel in Kissimmee.

FLYAWAYS

☐ *UNIJET* Caribbean (0444-459191) has increased capacity to Jamaica, Antigua, Barbados, Bahamas, Grenada and St Lucia by 25 per cent to cope with demand. Prices start from £399 per person for 14 nights at Montego Bay or from £1,256 for a week's holiday for a family of four when children share the adults room at Daniel Villas, Negril, Jamaica. At the all-inclusive Sandals and Superclubs resorts in Jamaica prices start at £1,299 per person for 14 nights.

☐ ETHIOPIA, it is claimed, is returning to stability after the long and costly civil war and Explore Worldwide (0252 319448) is returning to the country for the first time in ten years from October. For £1,295 per person — including all flights, meals outside Adis Abeba, hotels, transport and guides — the operator offers a ten-day tour to take in medieval castles in Gondar and rock churches hewn out of the mountainside at Lalibela.

☐ PLACIDO Domingo takes the role of Turiddu in Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* on July 4 and Page & Moy (0533 524444) is offering the chance to see the star in action during a seven-night opera holiday to Verona and Venice from June 30 for £635 per person.

☐ COSMOS (061-480 3444) can supply return tickets to Malta this Saturday at £89 from Luton. If 14 nights in the island's Sabina apartments are included, the price is £154.

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Philip Howard



■ So, Mr Patten, what is this unspeakable standard language anyway?

I am going to really try very hard to write this in Standard English, chums. But it ain't easy. Everybody knows that correct speling is essential. But spelling changes, from place to place and time to time. Fantasy reverted to its original spelling after three centuries of our giving phantasy a go, even though there was no general switch then from *f* to *ph* throughout English. Verbs has got to agree with their subjects, or as John Patten has just written to all 25,000 chairmen of school governors, recent research has shown "that high expectations created by a national curriculum, rather than more spending, was the common factor in the higher standards achieved in Japan, France and Germany". I am not going to use no double negatives, though Shakespeare did. Everyone knows that they should stick to the rules. The trouble is that the rules change all the time and from place to place.

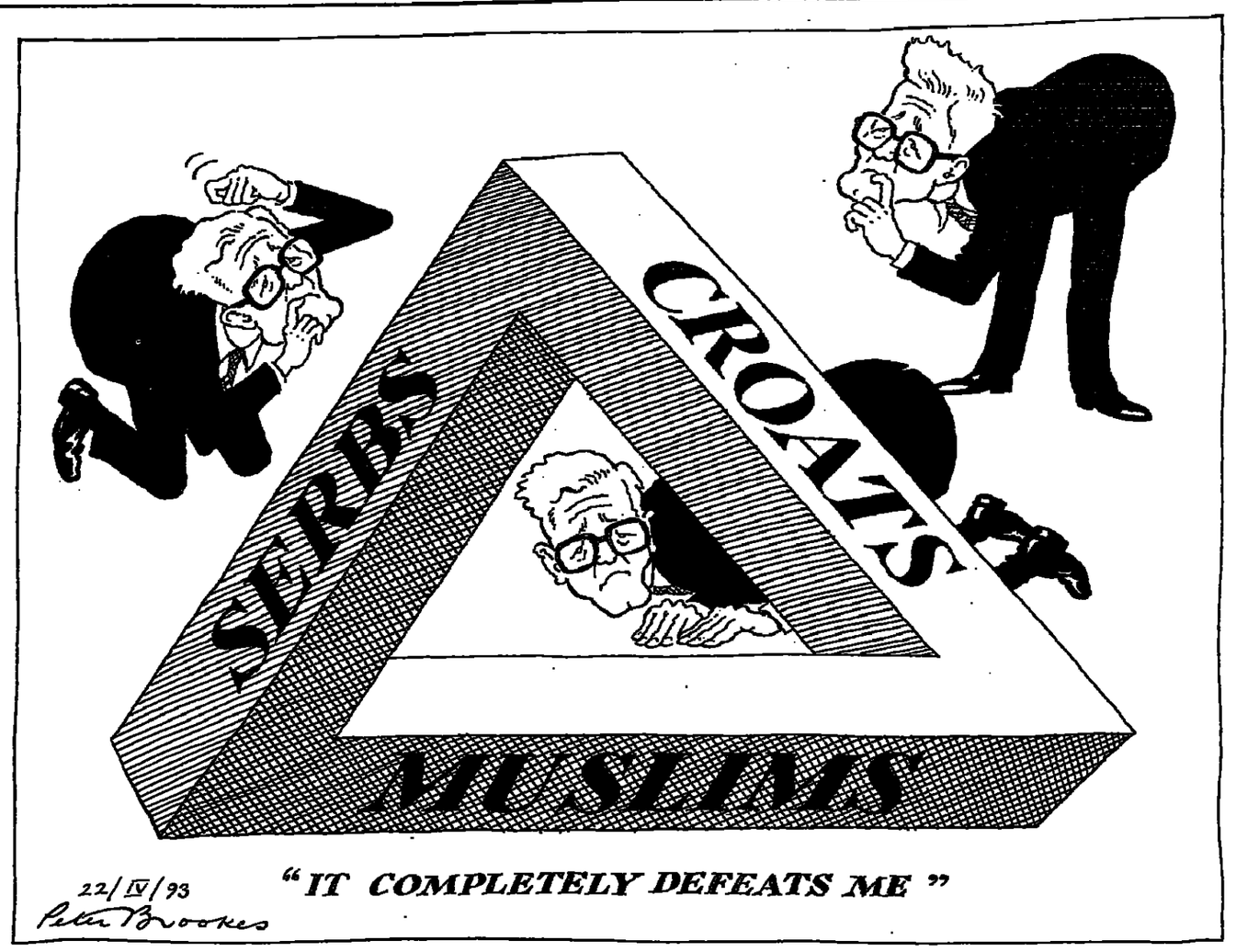
Everyone, anyone, no one, and other such pronouns are singular in form and used to be treated "correctly" as singulars. As anybody can see for themselves, they are changing their grammar. This is to avoid the clumsiness of "Anybody can see for himself or herself", and the masculine assumption of the notorious generic "he", in which the male is said by male grammarians, coyly, to embrace the female, and "Anybody can see for himself" includes woman, even though it fails to mention her.

Probably as an extension of the king's flag, standard was introduced into English to describe a royal norm for coinage and weights and measures, and later for mass production of such things as railway gauges and bolts, which can have an authoritative and recognised exemplar of correctness. But language is not like coins or nuts and bolts, and there are many shifting standards of grammar.

Standard English used to be called the King's English, or the Queen's English, or Oxford or Public School English. Not all the kings and queens have spoken English or written it well, and it is possible to be less than reverent about their prestigious dialect which is now described as advanced Received Pronunciation, or *High Taw Tawk Prawpah-leah*. It has been satirised as the eye dialect, in which *shouting* is represented as "shiteing", *family* as "fear-mealy", and *taxi* as "tex-yah"; and the satirical rogue supplied a bookmark to go with his book to be gripped between the teeth as an aid to a "proper" clipped articulation.

One does not have to travel far north of Watford to recognise that there are different countries out there. Up in Durham, the cathedral, where rest the bones of the Venerable Bede and the saintly Cuthbert, carries on majestically with the same services as it has for nine centuries, making disestablishment unthinkable; while outside the locals speak a different Standard English. This is not just a matter of accent, the Northern *put* to rhyme with "lute" rather than "foot". Dialect uses different words, moke for donkey, ass or nirrup. It changes the structure of words: "dived" or "dove". It uses the same word to mean different things: is "dinner" for wimps, the mid-day or the evening meal? The lovely English of South Wales reflects Celtic grammar. Can it be incorrect to ask: "Is it well that you are?" Shall we cut the poetry out of Black English: "No way no girl can't wear no platform shoes to no amusement park." (She cannot wear them.) We shall be back to the bad old days when children were beaten, and made to wear placards round their necks, for using their native dialect. Luckily Geordies, Cockneys, Bristolians and the rest resisted centuries of such indoctrination to talk posh.

Writing carefully, dangling participles should be resisted. Above all, clichés must be avoided like the plague. As long as we recognise that there is not one single Standard English, as used by educated people in the south-east of England, but a number of overlapping standards, shifting, disputed and constantly changing, we shall not go far wrong in our retreat to basics, nor create a linguistic underclass of 95 per cent of our nation. All children should be given the chance to learn to write proper. So long as their teachers recognise that living language cannot be tied down by rules, especially standards dimly remembered by middle-aged bureaucrats and politicians with the male menopause in the metropolis.



An end to savagery

Life in Warsaw is still shaped by past cruelties: now the world should stand up to prevent such a legacy of war in Bosnia

William Rees-Mogg

Last Saturday I went to the 9 o'clock Mass in Warsaw, in the 18th-century church next to the Hotel Bristol. Its recently regilded rococo pulpit, shaped like the prow of a boat, with an anchor, a flag and other nautical emblems, survived the terrible destruction of the war. Although it was an ordinary low Mass in a city centre church, it was full, and people were standing at the back. I was next to a group of elderly Poles, people in their sixties. They would all have suffered both from the Nazi and the Stalinist tyrannies: suffering is very close to prayer.

I had never been to a Polish Mass before, though there is a Polish church in London, and had not realised how moving Polish sounds as a liturgical language. Like Hebrew, it has the resonance of a lamentation. Warsaw is now a city of hope, of a new period of Polish freedom, but it is still a city of tragedy, with memories of suffering beyond anything we have had to bear in Britain.

In a tour of the city, we were taken through the area of the ghetto. The Jewish rising in 1943 was being commemorated this week on its 50th anniversary. Poland has a long history of anti-Semitism — many Jews do not like the Poles either — but this does not make the Poles responsible for the crime committed in their midst, which was also committed against them. A year after the destruction of the ghetto came the Warsaw rising; Hitler ordered the destruction of the city, and Stalin's armies waited until the order had been carried out.

In Warsaw, the crimes of the Nazi and Stalinist eras still have a direct impact on people's lives. Even though the Poles are now free, and are gradually becoming more prosperous, the context of Polish life is still shaped by those savage tyrannies. It would be a mistake to imagine that the Poles can ever forget what their two great neighbours, Germany and Russia, did to them. Neither will be forgiven, any more than the Serbs can ever expect to be forgiven for what they are doing in Bosnia.

The occasion which took me to Warsaw was a very cheerful one, the official opening of the Hotel Bristol by Margaret Thatcher. Forte had invited an agreeable group of English journalists and gossips, a group that Lenin might have described as "a white guard gang of assassins and spies". The refurbishment and reopening of the hotel, which has been a joint enterprise between Forte and Polish and other European partners, is an example of the investment backed by management skills which is most helpful to Eastern Europe. We ate caviar — surprisingly cheap in Warsaw — drank champagne and visited restored palaces.

This luxury provided a dramatic contrast to the tragedy that is unfolding further south in Central Europe. The Poles know it all. They have experienced "ethnic cleansing" — that is what the Germans did to the Polish Jews. They have experienced the deliberate destruction of cities: Warsaw was totally destroyed in 1944. They have experienced the evacuation of populations by the hundreds of thousands. They have experienced starvation. They have experienced the purposeful destruction of leadership groups: the Russians killed 17,000 in the Katyn massacre. They have experienced the purposeful destruction of national monuments, the attempt to destroy people's sense of cultural identity. All of this happened in Poland, and although the regime became milder, Poland regained freedom only a few years ago. For 45 years after the war, Poland continued effectively to be what it had been in the 19th century, a Russian colony.

On the Saturday Lady Thatcher spoke about the freedom of Poland, and about the tragedy of Bosnia. Her earlier speeches have had their international impact, but the Polish setting gave this a particular emotional force. She referred to "the new world order" and commented, briefly and realistically, that "there isn't one". She referred to the finding of The Hague Court that the Serbs were in breach of the Geneva Convention and the court's order that the Serbs should "desist from genocide". "Who is going to enforce it? No one will enforce it." The United Nations has the moral authority but the individual nations have to implement it. "That you cannot do without leadership."

So far, the Serbian leaders have correctly gauged that Europe and the United States have not had the will to prevent them committing genocide in Bosnia. Their savagery has been matched by the Croats and the Bosnian Muslims, but their firepower is much greater. They should, however, be prepared to revise their calculations. The siege of Srebrenica, which has been seen by the whole world on television, has begun a change of mind in the democracies.

Democracies rightly hate war. They only accept the necessity of military action when they have become convinced that there is no other possible course. If they are given leadership, which seldom happens, they may face aggression in time to deter it. Much more often, they will face aggression only when it has become intolerable to them. But just as democracies are reluctant to enter into the struggle, they are hard to hold back when a particular crime convinces them that they have no choice. That is the stage we are now approaching.

Such events are memorable in 20th-century history. The German invasion of Belgium — a clear act of great power aggression — convinced the British democracy that we had no choice but to enter the war in 1914. The sinking of the *Lusitania* had much the same effect on the United States. In the 1930s Britain and France tried to appease Hitler. We let the Rhineland be occupied; we signed the Munich agreement; but the invasion of Poland convinced us that we had no choice. Pearl Harbor was the direct challenge to the United States. What has happened in Srebrenica seems to be having the same effect now on Western opinion. The Serbs may have triggered the reaction they have most reason to fear.

History suggests that democracies go on to the end, once they have made their decision. Democracies are more peaceable than dictatorships, but can be implacable. Against great powers in the world wars the democracies, though initially so reluctant, persisted until they won. There are about 12 million Serbs, whereas in 1941 Hitler had the resources of almost all of Europe and his Japanese allies soon won the resources of a large part of South East Asia. The Serbs would do well to remember that they number less than a quarter of 1 per cent of the world's population. If they continue to defy the world, they will lose, and the consequences will be terrible for them.

The need now is to convince the leaders of the Serbs in Bosnia and in Serbia that this is so. They need to understand the full threat of democratic opinion to the Serbian position. Before Srebrenica the democracies were only willing to provide the three parties in Bosnia with non-military assistance, until peace was negotiated. Now the democracies are moving towards a decision to enforce an end to the war, with Serbian withdrawal from Bosnian Muslim areas. If the United States starts to use force, bombing Serbian supply lines or artillery posts or whatever, it will probably step up that force until these objectives have been achieved. There is no question of the United Nations being defeated.

Two arguments are being used against this policy. The first is that Bosnia is not the only part of the world where terrible things are happening. This argument could tell the other way. In Warsaw one feels the full evil of the blood-guilt of 20th-century Europe, of the Holocaust, of the trenches in Flanders, of generations of tyranny. It could be a start to the process of settling other wars to declare Europe a war-free zone, and to proceed against those who endanger Europe's peace. The more horrors one can see threatening the world, the less reason to leave this horror to burn unchecked.

The second argument is that Bosnia and Serbia itself are too difficult militarily; the ground is too unfavourable. Yet the Serbs should not rely upon that. Their advantage against the Bosnian Muslims and the Croats is that they are an army fighting half-armed militias. The United Nations can deal with armies in the field, whose very organisation turns them into targets. It is the spectacle of any army liquidating civilian towns and villages that has aroused the anger of the world. The Serbian troops could be deprived of their military advantage, and may have to be.

Cutting judicial corners

Geoffrey Bindman warns against the DPP's proposals

Those who manage the legal system are under severe Treasury pressure to reduce the increasing burden of the law on public funds. A good rule of thumb is that where savings can be made without risk of injustice, they should be made. But where they shift the balance unfairly in favour of one party or another, they must be approached with extreme caution, and firmly resisted unless there is overwhelming justification.

The three components of the system of criminal justice — the administration of the courts, the prosecuting authorities (including the police), and legal representation for those accused of crime — are almost entirely funded out of the public purse. Cost constraints on administration, where they favour neither prosecution nor defence, may be largely uncontroversial, but cost-cutting proposals touching on the prosecution process itself may easily favour one side. Almost invariably, they favour the prosecution.

The recommendations made by the Director of Public Prosecutions, Barbara Mills QC, to the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice fall very clearly into that category. Most striking of these is the proposal to abolish the right of the defendant to choose trial by jury.

The present law divides criminal offences into three classes. The first is summary offences, which can be tried only by magistrates, lay or stipendiary. These include minor motoring offences, and other offences not involving allegations of dishonesty. Second are offences which can only be tried on indictment in a crown court. These are very serious offences, usually involving violence, including murder, robbery and rape. Third are offences which may be tried either in the magistrates' court or the crown court. These often involve allegations of theft or other dishonesty, including shoplifting. Such offences will go to the crown court if the magistrates think that their sentencing powers are inadequate or if the defendant exercises his option of trial by jury.

Mrs Mills says about a quarter of crown court cases fall into the last category and that in 80 per cent of these the defendant pleads guilty once in the crown court. The implication is that committal to the crown court of this 80 per cent is pointless, for the defendant would have been no worse off if he had made the same plea in the magistrates' court and taken his punishment there.

There are several fallacies here.

First, it cannot be assumed that all those who plead guilty in the crown court are in fact guilty. The fact that they are not guilty may be the very reason that they elect for jury trial. By the time the crown court trial takes place, much may have changed. The prosecution may have formulated the indictment differently; additional evidence may have been served; defence witnesses who seemed helpful may have disappeared. The prospects of an acquittal may now seem uncertain. Often the most important factor is the promise of a lighter (especially non-custodial) sentence.

Second, what of those who plead "not guilty" in the crown court — of whom, in London at any rate, juries acquit some 50 per cent? Mrs Mills must include them in her rejection of the right to opt for a trial by a jury of their peers, because in the magistrates' court the plea will not yet have been made.

Third, if a discretion is given to magistrates (or worse still, prosecutors) to refuse a defendant a jury trial, how is this to be exercised without their prejudging the case? And is the defendant to have a right of appeal against such a refusal? One forsees the creation of a new and costly legal battlefield, which would negate any savings made by changing the present rules.

But the most important argument against the proposal is that it is a further whittling away of the rights of the citizen in favour of the state. Nor is it clear that a reduction of aborted trials in the crown court cannot be achieved by other means.

The practical problem defendants and their solicitors often face in the magistrates' courts is that the prosecution case is not fully investigated and prepared. This means that the opportunity for the defendant to understand the case against him may be incomplete. Furthermore, prosecutors in the magistrates' court may not have the authority or the information to be able to engage in the "plea-bargaining" which Mrs Mills supports. Only by opting for trial by jury can the defendant reach a position in which the necessary dialogue can take place. The Crown Prosecution Service, of which Mrs Mills is the head, could itself do much to reduce the number of abortive trials by better preparation of cases at an earlier stage and by more senior representation in the magistrates' courts.

Unfortunately, the other proposals put forward by Mrs Mills also seem to weaken the defence in favour of the prosecution. Pressure on defendants to disclose their case at an early stage subverts the fundamental principle that it is for the prosecution to prove its case, not for the defendant to prove his innocence. And to suggest that the prosecution should be relieved of its present obligation to disclose all unused evidence ignores the miscarriages of justice which have resulted from failure to make such disclosure — as in the Judith Ward case — and those cases — such as Matrix-Churchill — in which a gross miscarriage *would* have occurred without insistence on disclosure.

The author is a solicitor specialising in civil liberties.

Cryptic conversions

NOW that Ann Widdecombe has broken the ecclesiastical ice, so to speak, the House of Commons has decided to follow in her footsteps to Rome. It has appointed its first Catholic priest since the Reformation and there are plans for a monthly Mass in the House.

Spiritual guidance and confession will be offered in-House for the first time by Father Michael Seed, who celebrated the High Mass for Widdecombe yesterday in St Stephen's crypt. John Patten, a Catholic, and John Gummer, nearly a Catholic, were present.

As ecumenical adviser to Cardinal Hume, Seed will still be based at Westminster Cathedral. But he is expected to frequent the lobby and committee rooms, offering pastoral advice to as many MPs as will listen. "It is the first time there has been such a spiritual and pastoral link with the Commons," he says. "I hope to participate fully in the ecumenical work of the various Christian parliamentary fellowships."

He is already a great friend of Widdecombe, the social security minister, who named herself Hugh for yesterday's service, and is doubtless working on hovering Anglicans such as Gummer.

With women priests to the fore in the Catholic argument, some of the crypt's idiosyncracies will have to be brushed aside. Certainly, the



plaque in a broom-cupboard to Emily Wilding Davison, a suffragette who barricaded herself down there on census night in 1911, is likely to go unremarked.

● *Matthew Parris, the* Times *parliamentary sketch-writer, is under threat again. As holder of the fastest marathon time (two hours 32 minutes and 57 seconds) for any MP, he is disturbed to hear of Sebastian Coe's latest plan: to take a team of four MPs to run in the New York marathon against the senate. He was spared, of course, when Coe pulled out of the London race. But this time it's for real. "I am all the more determined to do well in New York. We want Parris's record," warned Coe last night.*

Smooth as silk

PERHAPS the launch of the new series of *Clive Anderson Talks Back* yesterday was not quite the best time to admit it, but Clive Anderson, the barrister turned talk-show host, wants to be a QC. He is thinking of applying for silk.

Anderson admits, however, that he is out of practice: "The last time I was in court was last year." But he is confident that his high television profile will not affect his chances of being picked either way. "Judges do not watch Channel 4. With them I think it's a case of the *Nine O'Clock News* and straight to bed."

Gurgle

JOHN BIRT is under fire again . . . for his new bathroom in Broadcasting House. A letter in this week's *Ariel*, the BBC's in-house newspaper, complains that BBC staff were disturbed by the noise entailed in its renovation.

Anthea Davies of "programme resources, radio", lambasts the workmen who are responsible for many of the so-called "phantom noises" which unsuspecting listeners have to bear on some of their favourite programmes.

But her real venom is reserved for the director-general. "The noisy work that disturbed us most in BH was the renovation of the DG's bathroom. We don't begrudge you a private loo, Mr Birt, but a whole new suite? In these stringent times?" she writes.

● *Robert Key, the junior heritage minister, was delighted that the Academy of St Martin in the Fields won a Queen's Award for Exports yesterday. He was once a member of its chorus, even singing on the film soundtrack to* Amadeus. *With the pressure of ministerial office, Key, like Lamont, now sings only in the bath.*

Second estate

THE GUINNESS family has taken Conservative talk of green shoots (or is it now branches?) to its heart. The Hampshire-based branch of the brewing clan has just spent around £10 million on a country estate in Wiltshire. Lady Moyne is said to have bought Druid's Lodge, a stretch of 3,500 acres of farmland near Salisbury where corn takes second place to pheasants as the most important crop of the year.

But Druid's appears to have been a substitute for Conholt Park, a 2,000-acre estate which the family tried to buy last year, and some agents consider it inferior. "It is flat and boring whereas Conholt was beautiful and hilly," says one.

Knight Frank & Rutley, one of the agents involved in the deal, confirmed that the estate had just been sold but dared not breathe a word. At least the £10,000 in stamp duty will be a small contribution to Norman Lamont's battle to pay off the unprecedented budget deficit.

Year in Noddyland

PETER MAYLE never stood a chance. He wasn't even considered for last night's annual Enid McLeod Literary Prize, which is awarded to a writer who has "contributed to Franco-British understanding". It went instead to Margaret Crosland for her biography of the French feminist writer Simone de Beauvoir.

Mayle's contribution to Franco-British relations was judged "counterproductive" by Book Trust chairman Martyn Goff, who chaired the judging panel. "The tales are too cosy," he says. "It is a chocolate-box version of life. Telling someone to read Peter Mayle for an understanding of France is like telling someone who wants to understand great literature to read Enid Blyton."

● *When the Labour MP Rhodri Morgan received a note in the internal post yesterday afternoon from Michael Morris, the Deputy Speaker, he feared the worst. It came with a £10 cheque. Morgan feared Morris might be trying to buy his vote in last night's confidence motion. He need not have worried. It was in fact Morris's subscription to the Lords and Commons tennis club, of which he is treasurer.*

DIARY

THE DRAGON'S CAGE

The evil of China's labour camps is chronicled at last

The horrors of 20th century life are often too great for the imagination to bear. Total war and totalitarian dictatorship have produced evils on such a hideous scale that civilised opinion is very slow to comprehend the enormity of crimes committed against humanity. Politicians and industrialists who conduct routine business with representatives of totalitarian powers find it unbelievable that the polite, pin-striped appearance of their trading partners could mask knowledge of such horrors.

A special place in our regard should therefore be kept for those writers who doggedly chronicle contemporary political evils. Their reward has often been contempt or, at best indifference, in the West. Their ultimate reward is the praise of oppressed peoples when they throw off the totalitarian yoke.

So it was that reports of man-made famine in the Ukraine under Stalin in the 1930s were dismissed as nonsense by many in the West. Even after the unbelieveable bestialities of the second world war should have made clear that nothing barbarous is alien to modern man, Robert Conquest's magisterial account of Stalin's purges, *The Great Terror*, was denounced as a Cold War tract.

China's exotic appeal for long masked its own terrible record. As Beijing bids for the Olympic games of the year 2000, the charm is once more on display. Although Communist ideology is supposedly dead or dying the system it created still lives on in contemporary China. On our books pages today we carry a review of Hongda Harry Wu's *Laogai: the Chinese Gulag*, a methodical account of the labour camp system which prospers under Mao's "capitalist road" successors. Mr Wu served 19 years in the camps. It is wondrous how dispassionately he documents their crimes.

China today is estimated to hold at least 16 million people in labour camps and to execute 20,000 people each year. The size of the camp population, bigger than that of Holland or Belgium, is disguised by China's vast billion-strong population. China has brought subtle refinements to the camp system unknown to the Nazis and the Soviets. Solzhenitsyn and other post war dissidents described how a *zek* could enjoy a strange freedom of speech and thought in the Soviet camps denied to civilians outside. China's *laogaidui*, however, include "thought reform", acknowledgment of guilt and encouragement to self-criticism in "study periods" as part of the regimen. But as the credibility of Maoism collapses so does the effectiveness of political re-education. The sad result, Mr Wu reports, has been to increase the use of violence to compensate for the decreased effectiveness of thought control.

Mr Wu's experience of the camps also gave him an insight into how slave labour is organised to underpin the system economically as well as politically. He served in slave labour camps converted into mines, factories, farms and even vineyards. Their inmates are political prisoners, convicts and millions of ordinary peasants and workers annually rounded up when labour is in short supply. Prisoners at the end of their sentences are told they are free but are put back to work under the same conditions under a programme called Forced Job Placement. Article 30 of China's Labour Reform Regulations makes plain the importance of slave labour in the economy by decreeing that goods produced in the camps are to be included in national production planning. They also make highly lucrative exports to the West.

In recent years some harrowing accounts of individual suffering under Chinese communism, like Jung Chang's *Wild Swans* and Nien Cheng's *Life and Death in Shanghai*, have aroused the conscience of the West. It is has been Mr Wu's task to unravel the system of evil which created these individual case histories. The massacre of Tiananmen Square made a great impact on the West because it was recorded live on television. But buried in the vastness of China, Mr Wu informs us, there are many Tiananmens.

REFORMING THE CROWN

The future of the monarchy needs serious debate

As the Prince of Wales once put it: "something as curious as the monarchy won't survive unless you take account of people's attitudes. I think it can be a kind of elective institution. After all, if people don't want it, they won't have it."

In the past 12 months more people than usual have said that they "won't have it". Few would now agree wholly with Walter Bagehot that "above all things our royalty is to be reverenced, and if you begin to poke about it you cannot reverence it". At a time when broad aspects of the constitution are under discussion — from Maastricht to Canterbury — not even the Queen is averse to all change. At a time of doubt and instutional decay, when British society cannot wantonly squander social assets, reform and renewal must be on the agenda.

That is why *The Times* is sponsoring a conference organised by Charter 88 on "The monarchy, the constitution and the people" in London on May 22, details of which appear on page 16. A constitutional monarchy remains, in our view, in the best interests of Britain. But without open argument with its detractors, it may be lost by default.

Support for the royal family has clearly fallen in recent years. In 1984, a Mori poll found that 5 per cent of people thought Britain would be better off without a monarchy, compared with 77 per cent who thought it would be worse off and 16 per cent who believed its abolition would make no difference. By 1992, the corresponding figures were 17 per cent, 37 per cent and 42 per cent.

Whether this is the natural response of a less deferential society or a more particular dissatisfaction with the antics of the royal family is hard to say. But the past "horrible" year, with its disintegrating marriages and squabbles over who should pay for the restoration of Windsor Castle, has increased the pressure on an institution that will survive only as long as it retains popular support.

One of the most important functions of a monarch is to make his or her subjects feel good about their country. Elected heads of state can sometimes achieve this — Ronald Reagan was probably the first US president since Kennedy to do so — but more often than not they fail. Pageantry plays a part. Just as the trappings of royalty bring tourists to these isles, so they can help to cement national pride.

Next month's conference with Charter 88 will put these beliefs to the test in open forum. Panels of invited speakers will address themes such as the monarchy's relationship with the Commonwealth, its links with the Church and the role of royal pageantry in national life. Republicans will cross rhetorical swords with constitutional reformers and the most ardent monarchists; the audience will be able to participate at every stage.

The aim of the day's discussions will be to advance and give focus to a debate that has often been lost in the soap opera of our obsession with the royal family. More than ever, there is a need for nuanced consideration of these imposing issues. Contrary to Bagehot's hopes, daylight has already been let in on the magic of the monarchy. Those that stand by the institution must take a lead in the arguments to come.

SUMMIT SUMS

The mystery of Everest is mathematical as well as mountainous

Mount Everest is a British mountain by adoption. Tibetans may have called it Chu-mu-lang-ma, "Goddess Mother of the World", on a map of 1717. But the goddess is much better known as the eponym of Sir George Everest, surveyor-general of India from 1823 to 1843. Fame came after measurements by theodolite had shown that it was the highest protuberance from the surface of the Earth, at what was calculated by the rude trigonometry of the time as 29,002 ft.

The British led the attempts to climb Everest after the opening of the Tibetan route in 1920. They did so in the same intrepid way that they introduced Alpinism and skiing to the Swiss. Several died in the attempt.

A British expedition first climbed Everest 40 years ago, though the men who planted the Union Jack and Nepalese flags on top were the New Zealander, Edmund Hillary, and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay from Nepal. Hillary announced: "We've knocked the bastard off." This British connection was strengthened by the scoop of the first ascent in *The Times*, in a coded report to deceive the rest of the squirrel pack of Fleet Street, by Jan Morris, then James Morris, from Wales. Plans are announced today to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the conquest of Everest in May.

On such an anniversary it is tactless of a team of international scientists to publish new measurements that show that Everest is 6 ft 7 in shorter than its last (Chinese) measurement. Nine climbers reached the summit last September with 33 lb of scientific equipment, including a tripod with prisms, which they set up on the peak. Scientists on the Chinese and Tibetan sides of the mountain bounced laser beams off the prisms, and measured the results, taking into account such factors as temperature below freezing, air density and gravity.

According to their calculations, the mountain is not yet a molehill. But atlases, maps and tables of superlatives of the world are going to have to be changed to show that Everest now stands at only 29,022 ft 7.2 in above sea level. This is official, until the next calculation. These sums will always be tricky, because of the variations of snow level and all other matters that delight measurers.

The new figure may detract just a fraction from the achievement of the hundreds of men and women who have ascended Everest since its first conquest, and others who have landed on its summit by helicopter, descended by paraglider, skied down it, and left their litter on its slopes. Mount Everest is easy to climb: it is just a little too high. But from today, it is a little less high. Exactitude in cartography is as old a British competitive pursuit as climbing mountains, bearing the same relation to the hills as philately does to geography. They measure it because it is there. Or thereabouts.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Call for overhaul of school tests

From the Chairman of the Headmasters' Conference and the President of the Girls' Schools Association

Sir, As schools convene for a term which seems likely to be uncomfortable after the Easter conferences, we write as representatives of the major independent schools to suggest a more constructive way forward.

We are fully committed to the improvement of education standards in the United Kingdom, an improvement which is urgently needed if our country is to hold its place as a leading nation in the next century. We may differ slightly in our recommendations for achieving this improvement, but we share the belief that the two key elements are a well-qualified and motivated teaching force, and proper funding in appropriate facilities.

We accept the concept of a national curriculum, and are happy that its actual content and degree of prescription will be modified in the light of experience. However, we share the deep concerns of so many of our colleagues about the testing regime being imposed. We represent schools for whom regular testing and reporting to parents is a normal procedure. We agree wholeheartedly that all schools should operate in the same way, and accept the often stated criticism that a number have not done so.

We cannot, however, accept that a national system of unified testing is anything but a cumbersome weapon, and one which inhibits good teaching both by the nature of the tests imposed, and by the excessive time taken by the whole process of testing and recording. Good schools do it much more effectively with much less interruption of the teaching programme, and much more appropriately for their particular pupils.

It is implausible to believe that one examination can fulfil three distinct functions: to act as a diagnostic tool for each pupil, to give a true picture of the school's effectiveness, and to give a national snapshot of standards. All these aims are achievable, but by different methods. We believe that this confusion of purpose is at the heart of the problem, and is also central to the objections to the crudity of the so-called league tables as a measure of the academic effectiveness of a school in bringing the best out of its pupils.

We believe that a more productive route would be to insist that all schools should adopt agreed good practice and that their testing arrangements should be carefully scrutinised. The machinery to achieve this has been put into place by the government by the institution of a regular and rigorous inspection programme. If not immediately, we suggest that as confidence in schools grows, the imposed testing regime should be withdrawn as schools earn what might be called a charter of competence.

There would still be a vital role for the Schools Curriculum and Assessment Authority in developing and promulgating good practice. The financial savings would be used to greater advantage within the schools, and would be more effective in achieving the stated principal aim of the government, to improve the achievement level of the lower half of the school population.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN WILSON, Chairman,
Headmasters' Conference,
JOAN JEFFERSON, President,
Girls' Schools Association,
St Swithun's School,
Winchester, Hampshire.
April 20.

From the General Secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers

Sir, Mr G. B. Miller's letter (April 19) seems to imply that all teacher unions are to boycott the national curriculum tests. To boycott such tests is a trade dispute and is a strike. This association has a no-strike rule and thus will not be striking against the tests.

This is not to say that we agree with all of the tests in their present form; we do not. We are judging this to be a professional problem and as such needing professional resolution, not the response of a trade dispute.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. ANDREWS,
General Secretary,
Professional Association of Teachers,
2 St James' Court, Friar Gate, Derby.
April 19.

From Mr John Kelly

Sir, Teachers are not at all "muddled" when they complain about excessive workload and yet resist simple pencil and paper tests at 14-plus (leading article, April 15). The argument is perfectly clear: simple tests conducted externally are unreliable; reliable complex tests take far too much time.

A teacher's own assessment, based upon a close knowledge of his own pupils, will continue to go on as it always has done, and will give useful diagnostic information to both teacher and parent.

Of course such information is not at all useful for league tables and the like. The marathon effort required for reliability at 14-plus is just too time-consuming and inefficient — especially since it all comes two years later in the GCSE, anyway.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KELLY,
4 Gwynant Crescent, Cardiff.

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Sports letters, page 43

Group 4's case on prisoner escapes

From the Managing Director of Group 4

Sir, "I recognise that the prison service needs radical change", writes Mr David Evans, general secretary of the Prison Officers Association (letter, April 13). We at Group 4 are pioneering that change in area 7 (Humberside and the East Midlands), at the government's invitation.

The newness and complexity of the court services operation has, in itself, been a major learning experience for both Group 4 and the Prison Service. In a statement issued on April 15, Mr Derek Lewis, director general of the Prison Service, declared:

It is clear that switching a massive undertaking like court escorting overnight from the Prison Service and several police forces to a single operator, public or private, was expecting too much . . . One of my tasks is to ensure that the next phase of the court escorting programme in the London area benefits from this experience.

There have always been escapes from escort, whether the escort be composed of prison or police officers. According to nation-wide figures released by the Prison Service in its latest annual report, there were more than 150 such escapes in the period April 1, 1991, to March 31, 1992.

It is true that we had difficulties in implementing the escort service on April 5, our first day, when a prisoner escaped from our officers at Hull magistrates' court. He was recaptured on the same day.

Since then, six other incidents have taken place, only one of which — on April 15, when a prisoner escaped from an unlocked courtroom at Ilkeston magistrates' court — was the responsibility of Group 4. The man was rearrested on April 17.

Two escapes (on April 6 and 8) were made from cell vehicles designed by the Home Office; the problem with the vehicles was identified immediately and appropriate modification made, in accordance with Home Office instructions. In his statement of April 15, Mr Lewis clearly stated that neither of these episodes was the responsibility of Group 4.

On April 8 a prisoner was released from Mansfield magistrates' court, as it was not made known at the time that he was required to appear in another court there facing a different charge. The clerk to the court has written to Group 4 clarifying the procedural error and clearing the company of any blame.

On April 10 our staff correctly released a prisoner on theft charges in Leicester magistrates' court, since he had been bailed subject to regular appearances at the police station.

On April 16 our officers were requested to attend a court in Sheffield where a non-custodial prisoner was appearing for non-payment of fines and were instructed to sit at the back of the court.

Whilst sentence was pronounced, the prisoner attempted to escape from the courtroom; during a violent struggle, one officer was assaulted and received facial injuries. The court clerk afterwards reported that "the Group 4 officers acted in a proper manner and could not be faulted for the defendant escaping".

I am confident that our systems and procedures, which are all agreed and monitored by the Home Office, are fundamentally sound and that our staff are properly trained to do the job. If all agencies (police, courts and Prison Service) within the contract meet their requirements, we can continue to improve our service. The support we have received from these agencies has been excellent.

In a television interview last week, Mr Alan Charlesworth, deputy chief constable of Humberside, stated that "Group 4 has had to gather about 150 years of police and Prison Service experience in about six months . . . Overall, what I can say in Humberside is that the new escorting service has released at least 12 police officers for street duty and that has got to be of benefit to the public".

Yours faithfully,
J. A. HARROWER,
Managing Director,
Group 4 Ltd,
Farncombe House,
Broadway, Worcestershire.
April 19.

State funds for parties

From Mr John E. Strafford

Sir, Ray Carter (letter, April 10) states: "Twenty years ago Ted Heath offered state aid to political parties but, for one reason or another, the idea didn't get very far." He then asks: "Is it not time we took the subject out for an airing once again?"

The Home Affairs Committee of the House of Commons is about to consider evidence for a new enquiry, whose terms of reference include examining "the case for and against state funding of political parties", so Mr Carter's request is about to be granted.

The enquiry has presumably been instigated by the fact that both our main political parties are deeply in debt and membership and support in long-term decline. Before jumping for joy at the possible "nationalisation" of the Labour and Conservative parties, should not the committee look at the reasons why this has happened?

Today the British public are better informed than ever about our democratic processes and perhaps they realise that democratic fault lines run through the two main parties. Labour is still dominated by the trade unions with their block votes, whilst the Conservative party officially does not even exist as a legal entity. Conservative Central Office is the private office of the leader of the parliamentary party. Can state funding go to a private office?

Before we start propping up our undemocratic political parties by state funding we should insist that they are democratic; but then if this were the case maybe they wouldn't need state funding.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN E. STRAFFORD,
Perama, Fulmer Road,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

Stability of ITV

From Lord Hollick

Sir, In Andrew Davidson's article (Media, April 14) on the new ITV franchises he reports that I told the House of Lords that I wanted to see an extension of the moratorium on foreign takeovers of ITV companies until January 1, 1997, and that with effect from that date, cash bids should be able to be reviewed and foreign ownership restrictions lifted.

I also made it clear that these proposals, intended to address the structural problems of ITV, should not be taken in isolation from extending regional subsidies to small ITV companies to the same date.

Under the current ITV arrangements, the small regional companies with lower advertising earning power — Border, Channel, Grampian, Tyne Tees, Ulster and Westcountry — pay a reduced contribution to the network budget. This benefit is about £24 million a year.

These arrangements expire at the end of 1994 and no new arrangements for subsidy have yet been agreed. Without the subsidy many of these small companies cannot survive.

The Broadcasting Act 1991 has created a number of unforeseen structural anomalies and it is in the interests of the stability of the broadcasting system that they should be considered together, alongside the BBC Charter renewal debate, rather than tackled in a piecemeal fashion.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE HOLLICK
(Chairman),
Meridian Broadcasting Ltd,
48 Leicester Square, WC2.
April 15.

Energy challenge

From Mr Chris Smith, MP for Islington South and Finsbury (Labour)

Sir, Michael Howard makes the extraordinary claim (The Political Interview, April 14) that Britain is two thirds of the way towards its Rio target of cutting carbon emissions. This is nonsense. The claim is based on an assumption that the total reduction required is ten million tonnes. Most independent observers put the figure nearer 20 million tonnes, especially if burden-sharing obligations within the EC are fulfilled.

Even if we accept the lower figure, the way the government reaches its two-thirds calculation is seriously flawed. A reduction of 1.5 million tonnes is supposed to be achieved through VAT on domestic fuel bills. This is doubtful, given the lack of elasticity in fuel use and the absence of any corresponding programme of energy conservation. A further 1.5 million tonnes comes from vehicular fuel duty changes in the Budget.

The remainder is apparently to be achieved in three ways. The new Energy Savings Trust is due to yield savings of up to 3.5 million tonnes, yet it has an initial budget of only £6 million, few staff and no powers to make the necessary changes to the regulatory regime for electricity and gas. It has so far done nothing.

The other two components claimed are the minimal changes to the building regulations, bringing Britain's standards more or less into line with those of Sweden in 1930, and the energy management assistance scheme, which has a tiny budget of £1.75 million per year. None of this has happened yet anyway.

We need a major national programme of energy efficiency, such as Labour proposed recently (report and photograph, February 2), regulatory measures to improve efficiency in motor vehicles and domestic appliances and changes in the Offer and Ofgas regulatory regimes to promote conservation.

Why are there so few allowances for companies to encourage investment in energy efficiency? And why is the government privatising, deregulating and cutting public transport instead of promoting it?

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS SMITH
(Shadow Secretary of State for Environmental Protection),
House of Commons.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Explaining clash of two cultures

From Mr Michael Watson

Sir, The "two cultures" phenomenon (leading article, April 13) appears to stem not from education but from fundamental differences in temperament. Those who need to be appreciated as humane, sensitive individuals search for meaning in life; those who yearn to know what makes things tick are satisfied only when they think they are in control.

On Leavis's side are the poets, journalists, crusaders and teachers; on Snow's side the scientists, inventors, architects and field marshals.

The remaining large majority share neither temperament to any marked extent. Amongst this majority are perhaps actors such as those performing in Tom Stoppard's new play (interview, Arts, on the same day).

Is the dichotomy a conflict between extremists which can be resolved in the last act? Alternatively, are the two cultures a natural result of the temperamental differences between people? I think the latter.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WATSON,
Long Cottage, Silver Street,
Minety, Malmesbury, Wiltshire.
April 15.

From Dr J. A. D. Ewart

Sir, The idea of "two cultures", put forward by C. P. Snow in 1959, has still not been effectually challenged.

Science is pure reason, but art expresses feelings about life: as our quality of life depends on what we feel, learning about the arts should therefore be *more* valuable than studying science. This may explain why scientists rarely reach the top in governments.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. D. EWART,
Delgany, Solesbridge Lane,
Chorleywood,
Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Stephen Bate

Sir, Whatever the true relationship between the sciences and their effect on religious faith, ours is an age of pervasive materialism, which often fails to recognise the complexity and depth of human nature. Knowledge has largely become technique, with the result that we seem to understand less about ourselves, notwithstanding enormous advances in the sciences.

Subjects such as philosophy, classics, sociology and theology, which teach us about ourselves, have been reduced in importance in favour of specific techniques capable of being applied in the economic marketplace. Whatever the causes of the decline in the Christian religion, we must supplement our materialism to achieve self-fulfilment and even perhaps self-preservation.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN BATE,
4 Raymond Buildings,
Gray's Inn, WC1.

Science and religion

From Mr Andrew Colchester, FIEE

Sir, Lewis Wolpert (article, April 10) perpetuates many common misconceptions in the relationship between science and religion. Science provides tools for understanding; it is a long way from providing a complete set.

That many Christian beliefs cannot be measured according to the presently understood laws of physics does not prove Christianity to be false, simply that physics today reveals little about Christianity.

Much of modern physics, quantum mechanics and particle physics cannot be measured according to the laws of Newtonian mechanics. Even Newton recognised the existence of a reality that did not behave according to his laws, yet Newton's laws are no less valid, for they are most appropriate for a lot of everyday situations.

Far from disproving Christianity, one of the great joys of studying physics is the insight it provides of the magnificence and the order of the Creation. God, of course, was not a scientist: he was an engineer. He used science to make something useful.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW COLCHESTER,
Old Wythers, Mount Bures,
Bures, Suffolk.
April 13.

Grinding to a halt

From Mr Ben Whitaker

Sir, I was heartened by the sight in Paris recently of several modern escalators (including a key one carrying passengers to a distant satellite at Charles de Gaulle airport) being *hors de combat*, to think that this traditional sight in London Underground stations may not after all be due to the defects of British workmanship.

But might the fact that so many break down for long periods, with often no repair work on them being visible, mean that there is an urgent need for more (and better) competition among escalator manufacturers? Which enterprising companies will help end the recession in this way — and at the same time help thousands of long-suffering travellers?

Yours faithfully,
BEN WHITAKER,
13 Elsworthy Road,
Hampstead, NW3.
April 20.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE

April 21: Today is the sixty seventh anniversary of the birthday of The Queen.

Her Majesty was represented by His Excellency Mr John Goulden (Her Majesty's Ambassador at Ankara) at the State Funeral of His Excellency Mr Turgut Ozal (President of the Republic of Turkey) which was held in the Grand National Assembly, Ankara, this morning.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 21: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, today gave a luncheon at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Chairman, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this evening attended a reception given by the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (Councillor Tony Langdown), the Guildhall, Windsor, and was received by Captain the Hon Nicholas Beaumont (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire).

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 21: The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this afternoon visited the Robert Milne Family Centre, Felixstowe Road, Ipswich, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Suffolk (Sir Joshua Rowley, Bt).

Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, afterwards visited the Newmarket Family Project, Newmarket.

Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

The Princess Royal, Patron, the Home Farm Trust, accompanied by Commander Timothy Laurence RN, this evening attended a dinner at Wilton Terrace, London SW1.

KENSINGTON PALACE

April 21: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, President, North London Collegiate School, today opened the school's swimming pool, Canons, Edgware, Middlesex. Dame Jean Maxwell-Scott was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Iris Fund (for Prevention of Blindness), was present this evening at a performance given by Opera Interludes at Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, London EC2.

Mrs Michael Wigley was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE

April 21: The Duke of Kent this morning opened the J T Wilson Building at the Dudley College of Technology, The Broadway, Dudley, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the West Midlands (The Earl of Aylesford).

His Royal Highness, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, today visited the Binding Site Limited, at the Birmingham Research Park, Edgbaston, Birmingham: attended a reception at the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, Harborne Road, Birmingham; and this afternoon visited Truflo Valves Limited, Westwood Road, Witton, Birmingham.

Captain the Honourable Tom Coke was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, this evening attended a dinner at the Royal Logistic Corps Headquarters, Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey.

Mrs Peter Wilmot-Sitwell was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales will visit the Egyptian House for the Productive Families, 77 Wigmore Street, at 11.30.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the British School of Osteopathy, will open the access and treatment facilities for the disabled at 1 Suffolk Street, SW1, at 11.00; as President of the Animal Health Trust, will attend the canine awards luncheon at the London Hilton on Park Lane at 12.30; and, as President of the Save the Children Fund, will hold a reception at Buckingham Palace at 5.50 for supporters of the fund from entertainment, sport and journalism.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Patron of the Pestalozzi Children's Village Trust, will attend a reception at the Swiss Embassy at 11.35 to launch the Pestalozzi appeal.

The Duchess of Gloucester, at Patron of St Peter's Research Trust (for the cure of kidney disease), will visit the new nephrology laboratories at the Middlesex Hospital at 2.30.

The Duchess of Kent will attend the Doctor of the Year luncheon, BUPA Medical Foundation, at the Savoy Hotel at 12.30.

Princess Alexandra, as Patron of the Bethlem Royal Hospital and the Maudsley Hospital, will open a new community home for the elderly at Knights Hill, West Norwood, at 2.30.

Meeting

Franco-British Society

The Marquess of Lansdowne, President of the Franco-British Society, presided at the annual meeting and supper held yesterday at the RAF Club. Mr Nicholas Snowman, Chief Executive of the South Bank Centre, was the guest speaker and Sir Reginald Hibbert, chairman of the society, also spoke. Mr Martyn Goff presented Ms Margaret Crosland with the Enid McLeod literary prize.

Birthdays today

Mr Leo Abse, former MP, 76; Lord Airedale, 78; Sir Michael Atiyah, OM, president, Royal Society, 64; Sir Christopher Ball, former warden, Keble College, Oxford, 58; Mr Lewis Biggs, curator, Tate Gallery, Liverpool, 41; Mr Alan Bond, company chairman and yachtsman, 55; Mr Peter Bowring, former chairman, C.T. Bowring, 70; Mlle Yvette Chauviré, ballerina assoluta, 76; Mr George Cole, actor, 68; Mr Alan Dukes, former leader, Fine Gael Party, 48; Dr Eric Fenby, composer, 87; Mr Lloyd Honeyghan, boxer, 33; Mr Ronald Hynd, choreographer, 62; Mr Nico Ladenis, restaurateur, 59; Sir Yehudi Menuhin, OM, violinist, 77; Mr Jack Nicholson, actor, director and producer, 56; the Earl of Oxford and Asquith, 77; Miss Margaret Pereira, forensic scientist, 65; Viscount Portman, 59; Miss Jancis Robinson, wine writer and broadcaster, 43; Professor Sir Eric Scowen, physician, 83; Mr David Summerscale, head master, Westminster School, 56; Sir Robert Wade-Gery, diplomat, 64.

Reception

Black Country Museum

The Speaker, Sir David Rowe-Ham, President of the Black Country Museum Development Trust, and Mr David Owen, chairman of the trust, welcomed the guests at a reception held last night in Speaker's House to mark the fifteen years of the Black Country Museum at Dudley being open to the public.

Banquet

Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress gave the Easter banquet last night at Guildhall in honour of Members of the Diplomatic Corps and their escorts. The Lord Mayor, the Apostolic Pro Nuncio and the Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords were the speakers.

STEPHEN MARKESON



Household gods: the sculptor David Williams-Ellis with two from a set of six life-size bronze statues of Greek deities that he has created for a private house in Japan. He is holding Thalia, the muse of comedy, while on the left is Artemis, the goddess of hunting. The statues will be on show in St James's Hall, Cockspur Street, London SW1, from today to next Wednesday before being shipped to Japan

School news

Beaudesert Park, Minchinhampton

Term begins today and ends with Speech Day on July 14. Dick King-Smith (OB) will be the guest speaker. The school celebrates 75 years in Gloucestershire on Sunday, June 13. Old Beaudesertians requiring details please ring 0453 832072.

Benenden School

Term starts today at Benenden School. Open mornings for parents of prospective students will be held on April 24 and June 12. Seniors' Day will be held on May 22 and Speech Day will take place on July 3.

The Leys School, Cambridge

Term begins today and ends with Speech Day on July 3, when the Guest of Honour will be Field Marshal Lord Bramall and the Preacher will be the Rev Dr Ralph Waller. The Summer Ball is on Friday, July 2.

Moulsford Preparatory School

The Summer Term begins at Moulsford Preparatory School today with 190 boys of whom 52 will be weekly boarders. Toby Shellard is head boy, Oliver Day captain of cricket and Oliver Thornton captain of tennis. Prize Giving will take place on Wednesday, July 7 and the guest of honour will be Mr Peter Smith, Headmaster of Bradfield College. The Summer Ball will be held on Friday, July 9 and tickets may be obtained from the School.

Pipers Corner School, High Wycombe

The Summer term begins today at Pipers Corner School, Great Kingshill, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, with 370 pupils. Sports Day takes place on June 18 and Parents' Day will be held on Saturday, July 10.

Saint Felix School, Southwold, Suffolk

The Summer Term begins today. There will be a Coffee Morning for September 1993 New Parents and their daughters on May 15. Southwold Music Society's first Arts Festival will take place over the weekend June 25-27, further details from the School. The PTA Summer Fête will be at 2.00pm on June 27. Parents Day will be on July 3, followed by the PTA Summer Ball at 8.00pm.

St John's School, Leatherhead

Term began on Tuesday, April 20. Andrew MacOwan is Captain of the School, Mark Ridgway is Captain of Cricket. The School play, *Il Servatore de duo Padrone*, will be on May 26 and 27. The OJ Gaudy for all those who were at the School between 1960 and 1970 is on Sunday, June 27. The Summer Concert, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, is at 8.00pm on Sunday, June 27. The Challenge of Business Management Conference for the Lower Sixth, is June 30 - July 1. Examinations for Academic Scholarships and Art and All-rounder awards will be held in the week beginning May 10.

A Memorial Service for Captain W.E. Rivers, OJ (1898-1993), former Honorary Bursar and distinguished member of the School Council, will be at noon on Saturday, May 29.

Luncheons

The Alexander Consulting Group

Miss Ann Widdecombe, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Social Security, was the guest of honour at the 1992 Pensions and Investment Journalist of the Year Awards luncheon held yesterday at the House of Commons, where she presented Ms Helen Pridham, freelance journalist and Ms Pamela Atherton of 'Money Management' with the main awards. Mr Brian Kennedy, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Alexander Consulting Group, presided and other guests included:

Mr A J Brown, Mr M Brown, Mr J Bryden, Mr G G Byng, Mr R T Charlston, Mr A Fearon, Mr D French, MP, Mr R Gaul, Mr R Hargreaves, Mr D Hopkin, Miss S Kavanagh, Mr C Marsland, Mr G Medcroft, Mr M J R Porter, Miss J Richards, Mr L J Smith, Mr C Spargo, Mr G Tatis, Mr J Whelan and Mr D Worthy.

Private Patients Plan

The Lord Mayor, Sir Francis McWilliams, who was accompanied by Alderman and Sheriff Roger Cork, was guest of honour and speaker at the luncheon following the annual general meeting of Private Patients Plan at Plaisterers' Hall, City of London, yesterday. Alderman Sir Peter Gadsden, Chairman, presided.

Service luncheon

The King's Regiment

Major-General Peter Davies, Colonel of The King's Regiment, and members of the regimental council were host yesterday at a luncheon held in Liverpool.

Dinners

Cutlers' Company

Mr R.E. Smith, Master of the Cutlers' Company, presented the Cutlers' Surgical prize for 1993 to Mr J.D. Stevens for his invention of the quadrant sub-tenon local anaesthesia technique and cannula design for cataract extraction at the annual surgical award dinner held last night at Cutlers' Hall. Professor N.L. Browse, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and Mr M.R. Pocock also spoke. Among others present were:

The President and the Honorary Secretary of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland, the Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Masters of the Brewers', Barbers' and Society of Apothecaries of London Companies.

London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates

Sir David Innes Williams, a Governor of the London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates, and Mr David Emms, director, received the guests at the annual medical faculty dinner for residents of London House and William Goodenough House held last night at Mecklenburgh Square.

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Butterworth, Chairman of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held last night at the Royal Society. Mrs Virginia Bottomley, MP, Professor David Conning, Professor Colin Spedding and Dr Anne Murcott were the speakers. Among others present were:

The Earl of Bessborough, Earl Jellicoe, Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, the Earl of Selborne, Lord Barber of Tewkesbury, Lord Beloff, Lord Butterfield, Lady Butterworth, Lord Campbell of Croy, Baroness David, Baroness Elles, Baroness Faithfull, Lord Fraser of Kilmorack, Lord Gregson, Baroness Hooper, Lord Howie of Troon, Lord Perry of Walton, Baroness Perry of Southwark, Baroness Platt of Writtle, Lord Taylor of Blackburn, Lord Taylor of Gryfe, Baroness White, Sir Austin Bide, Sir Walter Bodmer, Sir Francis Graham-Smith, Sir Ronald Halstead, Sir John Mason, Sir David Phillips, Mr Peter Bottomley, MP, Mr J M Cousins, MP, Mr Tam Dalyell, MP, Mrs Ann Winterton, MP, Dr D P Clough, Mr David Godfrey and Dr Richard J Haas.

Legal appointments

Judge Crane to be a member of the Criminal Committee; Judge Medawar QC to be a member of the Ethnic Minorities Advisory Committee; and Mrs Penelope Hewitt to be a member of the Magisterial Committee of the Judicial Studies Board.

Memorial services

Sir Evelyn Delves Broughton

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Evelyn Delves Broughton was held on Tuesday in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks. The Rev John Barrie officiated, assisted by the Rev Kingsley Joyce and the Rev Simon Delves Broughton. Viscount Leverhulme, KG, read the lesson. The Duke of St Albans read from the works of John Bunyan and Mr Philip Warburton-Lee read from the works of William Penn and Pope John XXIII. Among those present were:

The Dowager Lady Delves Broughton (widow), Mr and Mrs Desmar Blow and Mr and Mrs Harry Verney (sons-in-law and daughters), Miss Julia Delves Broughton (daughter), Rosamund and Frederick Dawes (grandchildren), Mr and Mrs Michael Petley and Mr and Mrs Robert Beckett (stepsons-in-law and stepdaughters), Miss Louise Crammond (stepdaughter), Mrs Simon Delves Broughton, the Master of Lovat, the Hon Mrs Henry Keswick, Mr and Mrs Clifford Johns (father-in-law and mother-in-law), Mr and Mrs Humphrey Swire, Helen Lady Delves Broughton, Daphne Lady Poole.

The Duchess of St Albans, Janet Marchioness of Milford Haven, Lady Colin Campbell, Viscount and Viscountess Boyne, Lord Harvington, Patricia Lady Foley, Jacqueline Lady Killearn, Lord and Lady Stewartby, Lady Edith Foxwell, Lady Zinnia Judd, the Hon Sir Clive Bossom, the Hon Michael Flower, the Hon Mrs Julian Byng, Sara Lady Hoare, Lady Becher, Sir Nicholas Bonsor, MP, and Lady Bonsor, Elizabeth Lady Bonsor, Sir Anthony and Lady Meyer, Sir Toby Clarke (Standing Council of the Baronetage), Sir Charles and Lady Mander, Sir Theodore and the Hon Lady Brinckman, Sir Richard Baker Wilbraham, Sir Alan Dawtry, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Hanmer Hanbury, Sir Seymour Egerton, Sir David and Lady Barran, Mr and the Hon Mrs Charles Wilson, Baron Vaes, Mary Princess of Pless, Princess Katarina of Yugoslavia.

Mgr A N Gilbey, Mrs Virginia de Landa, Mr O R M Sebag-Montefiore, Colonel Ivo Reid, Mr Ian Macpherson, Mrs Marie Guinness Aschan, Mr W Rae Cullimore, Mr John Cullimore, Mrs Philip Warburton-Lee, Captain Francis Burne, Mr Maurice Scofield, Colonel Richard Sparrow, Mr John Wilbraham, Mr Amaury Blow, Captain and Mrs M Cavenagh-Mainwaring, Mr and Mrs Guy Cavenagh-Mainwaring, Mr and Mrs Charles Cavenagh-Mainwaring, Miss Tara Cavenagh-Mainwaring, Mrs Peter Affa, Mrs W Shand Kydd, Major P Egerton-Warburton, Mr and Mrs John Ravenscroft, Mr R J McAlpine, Mr and Mrs Roddy Petley, Mr John Bates.

Mr Geoffrey Seligman, Mr John Moore, Mr and Mrs Edward Huise, Mrs Peter Thwaites, Mr David Ashton-Bostock, Mr Erasmus Darwin, Miss Emily Heber Percy, Mrs John Dent, Mr and Mrs J Howell, Mrs J Forbes, Mr and Mrs Murrough O'Brien, Colonel Geoffrey Wilkinson, Mrs Jack Girardet, Mrs N Allason, Mrs Philip Roberts, Mr and Mrs Francis Perkins, Mrs Michael Lewis, Colonel and Mrs Eric Cooper-Key, Mr Gavin Tait, Mr Piers Dixon, Dr Peter Smith, Captain J G Fergusson (Farpoley Hunt Club), Mr Isidore Kerman (Forsyte Kerman), Mr John Colvin (Brooks's), the Rev P A Campbell (St John's, Doddington) and representatives of Doddington Estate.

Marshal of the RAF Lord Elworthy

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Elworthy, KG, GCB, CBE, DSO, LVO, DFC, AFC, will be held in St Clement Danes, Strand, London, on Thursday, June 3, at noon. Dress for the occasion will be lounge suit. Tickets are not required but those intending to be present are asked to notify the Ministry of Defence, P1d (Ceremonial) (RAF) on 071 430 7567 or 7314.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Henry Fielding, novelist, Sharpham Park, Somerset, 1707; Immanuel Kant, philosopher, Königsberg, Germany, 1724; Mme de Staël, novelist, Paris, 1766; Phil May, cartoonist, Wortley, Yorkshire, 1864; Lenin, Russian revolutionary, Ulyanovsk, 1870; Alexander Kerensky, Prime Minister of Russia, 1917, Simbirsk, 1881; Sergei Prokofiev, composer, Sontsovka, Ukraine, 1891; Vladimir Nabokov, novelist, St Petersburg, 1899; Robert Oppenheimer, physicist and pioneer of the atom bomb, New York, 1904; Kathleen Ferrier, contralto, Higher Walton, Lancashire, 1912.

DEATHS: John Tradescant, traveller and gardener, London, 1662; James Hargreaves, inventor of the spinning jenny, Nottingham, 1778; John Crome, landscape painter, Norwich, 1821; Thomas Rowlandson, caricaturist, London, 1827; Richard Trevithick, pioneer of the locomotive engine, Dartford, 1833; Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Prime Minister 1905-08, London, 1908; Roy Campbell, poet, Setubal, Portugal, 1957.

Sirius, a British packet steamer, was the first steam ship to cross the Atlantic to New York from England, 1838.

British lone-yachtsman Robin Knox-Johnston completed his solo non-stop circumnavigation of the world in just 312 days, 1969.

£1 coins were introduced into Britain, replacing paper notes, 1983.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.G. Ambler and Miss T. McNab

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Mr and Mrs H.S. Ambler, of Askwith, North Yorkshire, and Tiffany, daughter of Mr D.F. McNab, of Anakie, Victoria, Australia, and Mrs R.J. Austin, of East Melbourne, Australia.

Mr J. de la P. Beresford-Peirse and Miss T. Gates

The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Beresford-Peirse, of Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, and Tracy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Gates, of Clenchwarton, Norfolk.

Mr H.M. Ford and Miss S.E. Edwardes Jones

The engagement is announced between Hugh, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Ford, of Bath, and Susie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Edwardes Jones, of Wyddial, Hertfordshire.

Mr A.J. Fowler-Watt and Miss V. Hedges

The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs Donald Fowler-Watt, of Brambletye, East Grinstead, and Vivienne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoff Hedges, of Harare, Zimbabwe.

Mr C.A.R. Hutton and Miss C.K.D. Goode

The engagement is announced between Christopher, eldest son of the Rev Jeremy and Mrs Hutton, of The Vicarage, Newnham on Severn, Gloucestershire, and Kirsten, youngest daughter of Dr Patricia Goode and the late Dr Howard Goode, of Dorking, Surrey.

Mr S.K. Mildren and Mlle S.H.R. Boyer

The engagement is announced between Sean, son of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Mildren, of Eydon, Northamptonshire, and Sandra, daughter of M and Mme Jean Boyer, of Sete, France.

Mr S.T. Phillipson and Miss Y.H. Dwyer

The engagement is announced between Simon Thomas, son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Phillipson, of Sale, Australia, and Yolande Helena, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Terry Dwyer, of Melbourne, Australia.

Mr J.M. Quin and Miss A.S.L. Pike

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr and Mrs David Quin, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, and Arabella, elder daughter of Major General and Mrs Hew Pike, of Bentley, Hampshire.

Marriage

Mr A. Goldstaub, QC, and Mrs M. Pooley

The marriage took place on Friday, April 16, in Stranraer, Galloway, of Anthony Goldstaub, QC, and Moira Pooley. A service of blessing was held afterwards at Portpatrick Parish Church, at which the Rev Keith Offor officiated.

University news

Cambridge

Selwyn College

Elected into School Teacher Bye Fellowships in 1993-4:

Stephen Charles Richard Munday, Bishop's Stortford High School (Lent Term); Maura Mullins, St Bede's School, Redhill (Long Vacation period of residence).

Southampton

The university will confer the following honorary degrees at the summer graduation ceremonies:

Ludovic Kennedy, writer and broadcaster, LLD; Sheila Thomson, Southampton city archivist 1967-90, MA; Derek Schofield, former secretary and registrar of the university, D.Litt; Professor Edward Slater, professor of physiological chemistry at Amsterdam university 1955-85 ,and then honorary professor in the department of chemistry at Southampton university, DSc; Arthur Walsh, chairman of National Transcommunications since 1991 and chairman of STC 1989-91, DSc.

TEL: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BARWICK - Mrs Rita Barwick (née Armitage), Angela, Paul, Elizabeth, Beverley and David, family of Professor Robert 'Gordon' Berwick, who died suddenly on April 9th 1993, wish to gratefully thank everyone concerned for their help, thoughtfulness, comforting words of sympathy, flowers and greatly appreciated donations to the Professor Gordon Berwick Memorial Trophy (c/o Dr. A Barwick, 22 Meadowbank, Hitchin, Herts. or Registrar University of Huddersfield).

BIRTHS

BUCK - On 20th April 1993 to Helen (née Parry) and Roger, a son, Alexander David.

COHEN - On 16th April, to Sarah (née van Laun) and Charles, a daughter, Henrietta Susan Louise, a sister to Emily.

DRUMMOND - On April 20th 1993, to Felicia (née Shepherd) and Hereward, a daughter, Lucinda Jane Heneage, a sister for Thomas, Isabella and Freddie.

GRAVES - On April 4th, to Beetle (née Seymour-Williams) and Patrick, a son, Benedict Seymour.

ILLIDGE - On 21st April, to Libby (née Coningsby) and Tim, a daughter, Laura Alice Elizabeth, a sister for Benjamin. II Cor 9.15.

JENNINGS - On 9th April in Paris, to Alexandra and Guy, a son, Tobias William Wesley, a brother for Madeleine and Rebecca.

NEWMAN - On April 21st, to Claire (née Austin) and Paul, a son, Thomas Charles, a brother for Alexander.

OLDERSHAW - On April 13th at St Mary's Hospital, to Paul and Mary (née Evans), a daughter, Amber Marie, a sister for Alexander and Jonathan.

BIRTHS

RICHARDSON - On 14th April, to MaryAnn (née Garner) and Oliver, a son, Henry Marmaduke Oliver de Rougemont Richardson.

RUFFELL - On 20th April 1993, to Julia (née Dobrzyniewicz) and Miles, a son, Harry Miles Ambrose, a brother to Isabella.

SALTER - On April 6th, to Angela (nee Hanlon) and Andrew, a son, Alexander Robert Kershaw, a brother for Lauren.

SLATER - On April 16th, to Alison (née McLean) and Ian, a son, Charles Alexander Stuart.

TYRER - On April 17th, in New York, to Teresa (née Romer) and Jeremy, a son, Alexander.

WALTERS - On April 17th, to Theresa (née Collins) and Chris, a daughter, Sophie Cecilia.

WYATT - On April 20th, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Henrietta (née Bibby) and Geoffrey, a son, Hugh Oliver Brodie, a brother for Miranda.

MARRIAGES

KEARNS:ROBINSON - The marriage took place on April 17th 1993 in the Chapel of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, between Gerald, youngest son of Mrs Eva Younger and the late Mr James Kearns of Clydebank, Glasgow and Justine Victoria, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Robinson of Tickhill, South Yorkshire and until recently of Spylaw Park, Edinburgh.

DEATHS

AMATO - Jean-Baptiste, on 14th April 1993, Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur, Medille Militaire, formerly for many years with the French Consulate General in London. Peacefully at his home in Corfe Mullen, Dorset aged 73 years. Caring husband of Doreen and beloved father of Charles. He will be sadly missed by all his family here and in France. Funeral Service at St Catherine's R.C. Church, Wimborne, Dorset, on Friday 23rd April at 12.15pm, thereafter burial at Broadstone Cemetery, Broadstone, Dorset. Enquiries to Tappers Funeral Service, tel: Poole (0202) 673160.

BACCHUS - On April 16th 1993, Daphne, lately of Brighton and Hove. After such a full life bringing joy to all those who knew her she will be very sadly missed. Funeral Service at the Downs Crematorium, Bear Road, Brighton, on Thursday April 29th at 2.30 pm. Flowers and enquiries to Hanzingtons Funeral Directors Ltd., 4/6 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex, tel: (0273) 778735.

BARNARD - Maurice Henry James, died on 17th April 1993, aged 86 years. Cremation at Mortlake Crematorium, Richmond, Surrey, at 2.30 pm Wednesday 28th April. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to National Asthma Campaign c/o J.H. Kenyon (Funeral Directors), 49 Maries Road, Kensington, London W8 6LA.

BLASCHKO - On 18th April, Hermann (Hugh) peacefully at home in Oxford aged 93. Beloved husband of Mary. Funeral private. Thanksgiving meeting, Saturday May 22nd, 2.15pm at the Friends Meeting House, 43 St Giles, Oxford. No flowers, but donations if desired to Society for the Protection of Science & Learning, 20-21 Compton Terrace, London N1 2LN.

DEATHS

CONSTANTINE - On April 17th, peacefully at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Marie Leonie Francoise aged 95, much loved and respected mother of Norman, Louise, Marion, Joe, Anne and Leslie. Private cremation on April 29th, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at noon on May 6th at St Oswald's Church, East Hartsey, Northallerton, North Yorkshire. Flowers direct to Church please.

CRANG - On April 19th, suddenly after a short illness, John Michael Louis, beloved husband of Mary, father of Sally and Jane, grandfather of Jonathan, Rosalind, Charlie, Alice, William and Hugh. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Tuesday 27th April at 3.45pm. Family flowers only, donations to Royal Marsden Hospital, Fulham Road, SW3 6JJ.

de GRUCHY - Cyril Honisett, on April 12th 1993 peacefully in an Eastbourne nursing home. Retired Lobby Correspondent and Political Editor Westminster Press. Will be greatly missed by family and friends. Funeral today, Eastbourne Crematorium.

ELIAS - Lt. Col. J.E.D. Elias (Joe) passed away peacefully on 19th April 1993 in London. Sorely missed by his family and all those whose lives he shared.

FISCHER - Gerhard, on April 20th, husband of Sheila and father of Caroline and Patrick. Private family funeral. No flowers or letters, please, but donations if desired to St. Catherine's Hospice, Malthouse Road, Crawley, Sussex.

FITZSIMONS - On April 16th, Dom Edmund Fitzsimons aged 87, Monk of Ampleforth. Funeral at Ampleforth Abbey, Friday April 23rd at 12 noon.

DEATHS

IRENS - On April 21st 1993 at Lister Hospital, London SW1, Annick Marie Odette aged 49 years, dearly beloved wife of Mark and mother of Julien and Camille. Funeral Service at The Brompton Oratory on Tuesday April 27th at 11am, followed by burial at Putney Vale Cemetery at 12.30 pm. All enquiries to J.H. Kenyon on (071) 937-0757.

MACPHERSON - On 5th April 1993, peacefully after 10 years of loving care at the Royal British Legion Home, Crosfields House, Dark Lane, Rhayader, Powys, Major Stuart Macpherson M.B.E., 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards (Retd.). Requiem Mass was held on 7th April at Rhayader, followed by burial.

NEWMAN - On Saturday 17th April, sadly at Epsom Hospital, Frederick aged 71. Father of John, grandfather of Amanda, Sarah and Richard. Service on Monday 26th April at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead. Flowers to F.W. Chitty & Co., 45 Elmbridge Road, Weybridge.

PETTIT - On 21st April 1993 at Taunton, Cecil. Much loved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Lately of Haslemere, Belgium, India and the Argentines. Funeral at Taunton Deane Crematorium, 12.30 pm, Tuesday 27th April. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Multiple Sclerosis Society c/o F.H. Willcombe & Son, 8 High Street, Williton TA4 4NW.

SIDWELL - Ron Sidwell on 19th April, at Cheltenham Hospital, aged 84. Funeral Service on Friday 23rd April at St Barbara's Church, Ashton-under-Hill, 12.15pm, followed by cremation at Worcester Crematorium. Family flowers only please.

DEATHS

TYRRE - Squadron Leader J.S.B. (retd.) aged 73, suddenly in hospital 20th April 1993. As he has donated his body for medical research there will be no funeral. Donations in his memory to S.S.A.F.A. c/o Barclays Bank, Brentwood, Essex. At peace.

WOLLENBERG - William, on April 8th 1993, after a long illness borne with courage and great dignity. Deeply mourned by his wife Eva, children Tony and Ruth and their families.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BURIE - A Memorial Service for David (Vice Chancellor of the British Association Sovereign Military Order of Malta) will be held at the Little Oratory next to The Oratory, Brompton Road, London SW7, at 11 am, Wednesday 23rd June 1993.

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OBITUARIES

HENRY BRANDON

Henry Brandon, CBE, for 33 years *The Sunday Times* correspondent in Washington and a former associate editor of the paper, died aged 77 in a London hospital on April 20 after previously suffering a stroke. He was born on March 9, 1916.



HENRY BRANDON's place in British journalism was unique in two senses. First, because over the years he had built up for himself in Washington a standing and importance which no other foreign correspondent, of any nation, could rival. There was virtually no public figure in the US, including presidents, Democrat and Republican alike, to whom he did not have access.

With government officials from Dean Acheson to Henry Kissinger he was able to establish a relationship of trust and frequently warm personal friendship — in the early 1960s he enjoyed a particularly close association with both President Kennedy and his wife, Jacqueline. A mixture of intelligence, discretion, hard work and unflagging interest in public affairs made him one of the best informed men anywhere (something Richard Nixon tacitly acknowledged when in 1969 he gave orders for his phone to be tapped). Only an uncertain, often opaque, prose style, necessitating much rewriting in the London office, prevented him from being one of the greatest foreign correspondents of all time.

His clumsiness as a writer was due largely to the second factor in his uniqueness: that he was by origin a Czech, a refugee who first arrived in England with a very imperfect command of the language, just before the second world war. The story of how he climbed from these unlikely beginnings to the eminence he later achieved as a British correspondent can only be compared to that of Henri de Blowitz (also of Czech origin), who rose, as the correspondent of *The Times* in Paris for the last quarter of the last century, to be one of the most envied and accomplished journalists of his day.

Brandon, like Blowitz, was a professional through and through. For other British correspondents in Washington he was always a highly competitive rival and he by no means invariably enjoyed their good will. To the few he respected, though, he consistently displayed his own special mixture of charm and chivalry — qualities that were not always evident in his dealings with those junior colleagues on his own paper who presumed to venture on what he jealously regarded as very much his personal fiefdom.

Oscar Henry Brandon was born in Liberec, Bohemia, in 1916; the family name was Brandeis. After completing his secondary education there he studied economics at the Charles University in Prague. But he did not finish his studies until he came to Britain (with the help of maternal relatives in Britain) shortly before the start of the second world war. It was a time when life was being made more and more difficult for Jewish people in Czechoslovakia.

In Britain, until the start of the war, he attended classes at the London School of Economics; but he had already started working in Prague as a sports reporter on the German-language *Prager Tagblatt*, later trying his hand at *feuilleton* pieces.

His initial newspaper work in Britain was as a weekly cartoonist for the *Greyhound Express*, and it was at the race track that Brandon first met Iain Lang, then news editor of *The Sunday Times*. Lang was impressed by the political acumen of the young Czech refugee, and encouraged him to report on what he could glean from his close contacts with the entourage of the exiled Eduard Benes. His first contribution appeared in December 1939, headlined "Economic Havoc in Prague"; after that start he continued as an intermittent freelance contributor to *The Sunday Times* under Lang's helpful eye and typewriter.

By November the following year his knowledge of English and his writing experience had grown enough for him to be given a three-month assignment to cover American defence industries; he crossed the Atlantic in the first convoy to be shepherded into port by American warships. He stayed in the United States as a roving reporter for *The Sunday Times* until May 1943. He was brought back to London and joined the paper's staff. As a war correspondent he reported from North Africa and Italy in 1944, and moved up to Paris in the last stages of the war.

From there he went to Prague to join the first American troops who stopped short of the Czechoslovak capital. He was among the first to enter the city, where he awaited the arrival of Benes and got the first interview with him there. After a few more months in Paris, Brandon moved to New York to cover the early days of the United Nations Organisation, occasionally returning to Europe to report on the Big Four diplomacy in Paris, Moscow and London.

In April 1949 he was assigned to Washington as *The Sunday Times* representative, mainly on the recommendation of Ian Fleming, who had become Lord Kemsley's foreign manager and did much to guide Brandon's career until his own death in 1965. Brandon was based in Washington for the remainder of his professional life. In addition to his regular coverage for *The Sunday Times* he worked on a number of books dealing with current political issues. Many of his interviews with leading politicians first published in *The Sunday Times* Weekly Review were gathered into a book and published in the United States and Britain. This collection of interviews gained him the University of California's annual foreign correspondents' award in 1960.

In December 1963 *The Sunday Times* published Brandon's 10,000-word account of the acute political crisis which developed over the American cancellation of its air-launched Skybolt missile, on which the RAF had been depending to prolong the life of its V-Bomber force and maintain for Britain a credible independent nuclear deterrent. This piece of inside reporting brought him the Hannen Swaffer award for Reporter of the Year in 1964.

In 1966 he wrote another major newspaper series under the title "How the Pound Came Out of the Cold" (later, after the November 1967 devaluation, published as a book with the rather less upbeat title, *In the Red*). In 1971 he wrote *The Retreat of American Power* in which he analysed the thinking behind the Nixon-Kissinger foreign policy; it was serialised in *The Sunday Times* and later published in book form in Britain, the United States, Germany and Japan. In 1988 he published his autobiography, *Special Relationships*, which was generally found too much of a name-dropping exercise to be taken seriously.

During the decade from 1961 to 1971 Brandon wrote a regular column for the *Saturday Review* under the running title "State of Affairs", and he was also an occasional contributor to *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *New Republic*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *Colliers*, *Foreign Policy* and the *Smithsonian* magazine. Since 1983 he had been a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

He occasionally took time off from Washington to travel extensively round the world on special assignments, including Vietnam, the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Latin America.

He remained a bachelor until the relatively late age of 55, when he married Mrs Eric Wentworth, the widow of a *Washington Post* journalist. Born Mabel ("Muffie") Hobart, she had three children from her first husband, and later a daughter with Brandon.

Once he was married, Brandon entertained extensively with the experienced help of his wife. Muffie Brandon was an able professional photographer who served for three years as social secretary to the Reagan White House, and she was a great support to her husband in his professional work. In 1985, two years after his retirement from the *The Sunday Times*, he was appointed a CBE, a token of recognition from his adopted country which gave him great pleasure.

Brandon collected paintings of the French impressionists. In his youth he played ice hockey and soccer; throughout his life he remained a keen skier, tennis player and swimmer. Even in his later years he tried to make a point of walking at least three or four miles daily. He was a keen opera "buff", especially addicted to Mozart's works. He found time for a good deal of broadcasting and lecturing, and was a frequent member of the interviewing panel on the US television show *Meet the Press*.

Before his marriage in 1971 he used to assert that his main hobby was journalism. But recently, when asked what it was, he replied that it was "being a family man after more than half-a-century as a bachelor".

CANTINFLAS



Around the World in 80 Days: Cantinflas and Niven

Mario Moreno, "Cantinflas", Mexican comic actor who played Passepartout in the film version of *Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne, died on April 20 aged 81. He was born in Mexico City on August 12, 1911.

KNOWN simply by the name of "Cantinflas" to millions of Mexicans, the diminutive Mario Moreno was, at one time, the world's highest paid actor, and mooted as a possible successor to Charlie Chaplin. But despite a moderately well-received performance as Passepartout, Phineas Fogg's manservant, in *Around the World in 80 Days*, he never made the transition to Hollywood stardom.

This was hardly surprisingly: despite his usefulness as a foil for David Niven, the role of Passepartout was not an ideal vehicle for Cantinflas. When the film was made in 1955, he could barely speak a word of English, which for a comedian whose humour rested almost entirely on the spoken word, was a disaster. In more characteristic roles, Cantinflas would talk about anything to anyone just for the sake of talking. When he first took the name "Cantinflas", it meant nothing. Now "cantinflear" in Spanish means "to talk drivel".

Cantinflas specialised in the character known as "peladito" in Mexico: a man who despite his humble background has enough intelligence to succeed in life, a role for which he was almost typecast. Mario Moreno Reyes was born in the slums of Mexico City, the youngest of five brothers and two sisters. His father was a post office worker who saved to send his son to medical school when he was 18. Cantinflas did not take to his studies, however, preferring to work in the evenings as a dancer and comedian. He adopted a stage name so that his family, who considered show business a shameful occupation, should not discover what he was doing.

After a spell as a prize fighter, he took up bullfighting. At the height of his fame, he was Mexico's most adept *torero bufo* (buffooning matador), drawing full houses to the 50,000 seater Plaza Mejico, the largest bullring in the world. His routine became so popular that the Mexican government would have to close pawnshops on the day of a performance, to prevent peasants hocking their boots to see him. Cantinflas would stroll into the arena nonchalantly reading a newspaper and allow the bull to gallop within inches of him without moving a muscle.

His comic persona was developed almost by accident, while one day filling in for an ailing friend as master of ceremonies at a *carpa*, a sort of Mexican circus. A sudden bout of stage fright brought Cantinflas to a standstill. Flapping his arms helplessly and gibbering in an incoherent sing-song voice, he unintentionally proved the comic hit of the evening. Cantinflas stayed on and served his apprenticeship in the circus, becoming an accomplished acrobat and clown and perfecting his matador sketch.

His film career took longer to get off the ground but by 1940 he had become popular enough to leave the *carpa* and to make his debut in Mexico City at the Folies. There he met Jacques Gelman and Santiago Reachi and together they formed Posa Films. From 1941, Cantinflas churned out roughly a film a year made in his own studios. Each one, when distributed, packed Mexico's 5,000 cinemas.

In 1955 Cantinflas began working on *Around the World in 80 Days*. Mike Todd, the producer, had initially been deeply sceptical about casting him as Passepartout. But Cantinflas was convinced, that with a change of nationality (Passepartout was originally French), he could pull it off.

This was, in fact, one of his least successful performances, and sadly, the only one for which he is well-known outside Mexico. His best films were undoubtedly the early Mexican ones with their untranslatable dialogue, wonderful caricatures of the Mexican down-and-out and sharp political satire. Cantinflas was also an accomplished mime: in one film he plays a very convincing game of billiards with no table, cue or chalk. His admirers, among them Chaplin who called him "the world's greatest comedian," felt it a pity that he did not go on to develop this talent for the international market. But Cantinflas had, by this time, made his reputation as a "juvenile" and refused to be distracted.

In Mexico, people regarded him as little short of a saint, if nothing else for his exceptional generosity. While he was said to be earning £400,000 a year in the mid 1950s, he gave two-thirds of this away to charity. Twice a week, long queues of people would form at his door for handouts. He was also one of Mexico's biggest contributors to the Roman Catholic Church.

Despite his generosity, there was enough money left over for him to buy five houses, an aeroplane, five cars and 300 shirts.

Having starred in a total of 49 films, Cantinflas turned to business and philanthropic interests in later life and received the Emily Cranz Foundation's Gracias Award only last Friday for his work on behalf of underprivileged children.

He is survived by his son.

SIR PHILIP SHELBOURNE

Sir Philip Shelbourne, barrister, banker and businessman, died on April 15 aged 68. He was born on June 15, 1924.



FEW men can have provoked stronger, or more contrasting, opinions than Philip Shelbourne. Well-groomed and portly he had a pronounced taste for the good life — something reflected in the retirement arrangements he made on leaving the chairmanship of Britoil after its takeover by BP in 1988. Among the provisions laid down were that he should be allowed £90 a day for lunch, four centre court tickets for the annual Wimbledon finals, four free tickets for each "booking period" at the Royal Opera House — to say nothing of continued use of his chauffeur-driven company car and £40,000 a year in lieu of the withdrawal of office and ancillary services. Not surprisingly, since he was known to be a close friend and adviser of Margaret Thatcher, some political capital was made out of the notable self-indulgence of these arrangements.

Yet what no one ever denied about Shelbourne was that he was brilliant. He led three separate lives — first as a highly successful tax barrister, then (very much under the patronage of the Rothschilds) as a corporate financier and finally as a tycoon in his own right, first as chief executive of the Drayton Group and then as chairman and chief executive successively of BNOC and Britoil. Probably the only ambition that he did not fulfil was to head one of the Big Four clearing banks, though he even came near to that when he ran Samuel Montagu on behalf of the Midland. In the end, however, the bank's main board preferred the credentials of the former head of the home civil service, Sir William Armstrong, to the claims of a man who never disguised his view of himself as a merchant adventurer.

Shelbourne was the only son of a director of the Runciman shipping line. His mother died in childbirth and he was brought up mainly by aunts. He went to school at Radley and, after the war, to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he read law, as he did later at the Harvard Law School. During the war, or the latter part of it, he served with the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, commanding a troop of tanks in the European campaign that followed D-Day. But he was not cut out to be a soldier — hardship was not, after all, his way of life — and in later years he seldom referred to his military experiences.

His career, in effect, began when he was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1951. In no time he established his fame as the sharpest tax lawyer in the Temple: even the Rolls-Royce in which he daily drew up at his chambers was the gift of a grateful client. Shelbourne was touchingly pleased when his Inn made him a Bencher more than 20 years after he had left the Bar; but there is no evidence that he ever contemplated taking silk, still less that he aspired to be a judge. When the chance of escape came — via the offer of a partnership with N. M. Rothschild — he seized it with both hands. By then 38, he had been a practising barrister for barely a decade.

His instincts, though, were strongly commercial — not to say highly competitive — and Shelbourne's rise in the City was as speedy and assured as it had been at the Bar. His progress may have faltered a bit when he came out from under the sheltering wing of the Rothschilds but this time it was politics that rode to his rescue. He was an early confidant to Margaret Thatcher when she was leader of the Opposition and became, in effect, her adviser on privatisation. BNOC, overseeing the development of the North Sea oil-fields, was the first state monopoly to be chosen for liberation and, though it does not seem to have been the idea of Whitehall, Shelbourne was eventually asked by the then Energy Secretary, David Howell, to succeed the already departed Lord Kearton as BNOC's chairman.

His selection appalled the oil industry — leading immediately to the resignation of BNOC's managing director, Alastair Morton (with whom, to be fair, there was a long history of bad blood) — and provoked furious political criticism (even some of it from Tories, such as Edward Heath). Nothing deterred Shelbourne, however, who took to his essentially undertaking duties with relish — only registering disappointment at the end when the government showed itself determined to separate the trading arm of BNOC from the oil-producing company of Britoil.

Reluctantly, he stuck with Britoil, which offered 51 per cent of its shares to the investing public in November 1982. It was hardly "the sale of the century" — and the relative failure of the issue necessarily damaged Shelbourne's own reputation. The City and the institutions were, after all, passing judgment on his ability to lead a medium-sized oil company through a period of difficulty and danger. To his credit, Shelbourne saw the job through (in 1985 the balance of the government's shares was successfully sold to the public) and, if the entire episode ended rather sadly, it was only because the company proved vulnerable to predators.

In 1987 Shelbourne backed the American oil company, Atlantic Richfield, in a takeover battle and, when Britoil fell instead (largely through the government's retained "golden share") to BP, understandably felt compelled to retire — if hardly on subsistence terms.

Shelbourne's last years were something of an anti-climax. He accepted the non-executive chairmanship of the battle-scarred merchant bank, Henry Ansbacher, and served as deputy chairman of the Takeovers and Mergers Panel, as well as being one the "three wise men" appointed to the council of Lloyd's. There was something of a whiff of the poacher-turned-gamekeeper about all these activities and it came as little surprise to his friends when he chose to move out of London to a lovely Queen Anne house in the Close at Salisbury. There he latterly suffered a succession of strokes, becoming virtually immobile and only occasionally visible being wheeled across the Cathedral Green. He was unmarried.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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SHAMROCK II LAUNCH.

(FROM OUR YACHTING CORRESPONDENT)

Before leaving New York at the conclusion of the last races for the America Cup, in the autumn of 1899, Sir Thomas Lipton had practically pledged himself to another challenge. Nothing was, however, done in the matter until the beginning of October of last year, when the owner of Shamrock I requested the Royal Ulster Yacht Club to forward his challenge to the holders of the Cup. This was at once done, and at a meeting of the New York Yacht Club, held on October 17, the new challenge was accepted . . .

After issuing the challenge Sir Thomas Lipton decided to entrust Mr. G. L. Watson with the important work of designing the boat. In choosing the builders who would give form to his ideas Mr. Watson availed himself of the exceptional facilities for scientific experiment obtainable at Messrs. Denny Brothers' shipyard at Dumbarton. Work was accordingly started there early in November, the challenger being laid down in the shed from which the big steam yacht Lysistrata had just been launched. This shed was completely closed in, and the utmost precautions were taken to prevent any unauthorised person from gaining admission to it. In order further to ensure absolute secrecy with regard to the lines upon which the boat was being constructed, special measures were taken in the initial stages of the work. Thus, when a start was made with the bending of the nickel steel angles of which the yacht is formed, it was found that the different sections of the work were designated by a cipher of which only Mr. Watson's assistant possessed the key.

So far as shaping and building the framework of the new challenger were concerned, the work proceeded on well known lines, and the sole anxiety of the builders was to see that every joint and every stay was so secured as to gain the *maximum* of strength from the materials employed. The "timbers" are of nickel steel. Though light in section they are closely spaced, and every edge is bulbed to give increased rigidity. Over 60 such frames are built into each side, and at all places where exceptional strain might be expected special precautions have been taken to meet it. From the top of the lead there extends half-way up the fin a series of diagonal stays of the same angle steel. At the turn of the garboards and under the deck beams in the neighbourhood of the mast similar stays are run from side to side. . .

There will be some experimenting in the spars of the boat before she leaves for America, but in those now fitted wood is used only in the bowsprit, topmast, and topsailyard and jackyard. The mainmast, boom and gaff are all built of light steel plates rolled to semi-circular form, double riveted and strengthened inside, where possible, with transverse spurs. The boom is the longest spar of the kind ever fitted in a racing yacht, measuring no less than 112ft from gooseneck to outhaul, and the gaff is long enough to indicate that the mainsail will be unusually square in the head. The bowsprit is distinctly shorter than that carried by Shamrock I, and appears to project not more than 25ft. from the stem head . . .

ON THIS DAY

April 22 1901



Sir Thomas Lipton (1850-1931) built five Shamrocks in vain endeavours to win the America Cup. The Americans bestowed on him the title of the "world's greatest loser" and in 1930, in honour of his sportsmanship, presented him with a gold cup.

THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY APRIL 22 1993

NEWS

Canadians defend Srebrenica

■ A thin line of blue-helmeted Canadian troops took up defensive positions in the Bosnian town of Srebrenica and declared themselves ready to protect the Muslim residents from Serbian assault.

The bold UN stand came as Srebrenica was finally demilitarised. The UN chief of staff in Kiseljak confirmed that all Muslim weapons had been handed to the Canadian troops and destroyed..... Pages 1, 14, 20

Morris survives confidence vote

■ MPs overwhelmingly rejected an attempt to censure the Commons deputy speaker over his handling of the Maastricht bill. The leaderships of the main parties combined to support Michael Morris, under fire from the Labour left and the Eurosceptics..... Page 1

Charity for names

The fund set up by Lloyd's to help hard-pressed names is likely to be declared a charity in the next few weeks. If the application is approved, names could receive charitable gifts from the £50 million fund..... Page 1

Bomber seeks move

Patrick Magee, the Brighton bomber, and other leading republicans convicted of terrorist offences have applied for transfer to prisons in Northern Ireland so they can be nearer their families. Officials are considering the requests..... Pages 1, 2

Jury trial threat

The Royal Commission on Criminal Justice is expected to abolish a defendant's right to choose trial by jury, in spite of widespread opposition in the legal profession..... Pages 1, 20

Waco bodies

The remains of 40 people, including ten women and children, have been found in the rubble of the cult compound in Waco, Texas, where 86 people are estimated to have died. Three of the dead appeared to have been shot..... Pages 1, 11

Palace 'disgrace'

The setting of Buckingham Palace is a national disgrace, a report says. The Royal Parks Review Group calls for a pedestrian precinct to be created in front of the palace and a ban on car parking in Horse Guards Parade..... Page 2

Minister's Mass

Ann Widdecombe, social security minister and disaffected Anglican, took her first High Mass in the crypt chapel of Parliament, after a special service in Westminster Cathedral to receive her into the Roman Catholic church..... Pages 1, 6, 20

Jail charges

The American firm which is to run Britain's second privatised jail is under attack over its record in the US. A woman prisoner is alleged to have died due to human error on the part of one of its employees..... Page 7

Hani arrests

South African police detained five more people on suspicion of being involved in a plot to kill the Chris Hani..... Page 12

Middle East talks

The four-month halt in the Middle East peace process has ended, with Arabs and Palestinians agreeing to resume talks with Israel on April 27..... Page 13

Outlaw hero

An Indian outlaw, infamous for murder, environmental destruction and the corruption of senior policemen, has become a romantic cult hero..... Page 13

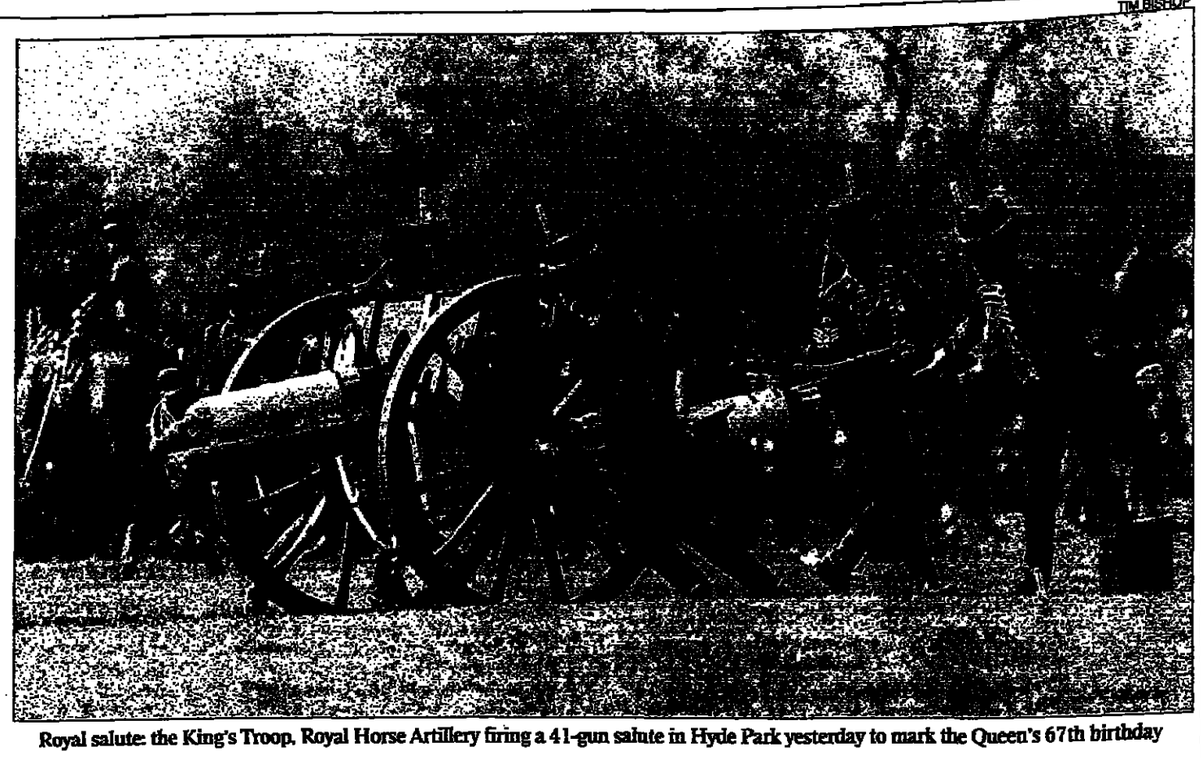
Yeltsin backing

Russia's constitutional court has ruled that President Yeltsin requires only 50 per cent of the turnout to win Sunday's referendum, rather than a majority of all eligible voters..... Page 15

Appalling skippers endanger ships

■ Appalling seamanship and foolhardy manoeuvres make near-misses on crowded shipping lanes far more frequent than official figures suggest. The English Channel and the North Sea are particularly hazardous. John MacGregor, the transport minister, is hoping to agree international schemes to reduce the dangers..... Pages 1, 3

TIM BISHOP



Royal salute: the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery firing a 41-gun salute in Hyde Park yesterday to mark the Queen's 67th birthday

BUSINESS

Troubled bank: Labour charged Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, with being negligent for not using his role as governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to impose financial discipline..... Page 25

Defence salvo: Lord Weinstock, managing director of GEC, attacked the government's defence procurement policy for promoting too much competition..... Page 26

The markets: The FT-SE 100 index of leading shares closed 13.5 higher at 2,869.6. Sterling surrendered its recent gains on the foreign exchange, easing 0.65c to $1.5380 and 0.22 pfennigs to DM2.4651..... Page 28

SPORT

Cricket: "On one side is Graham Gooch, stubble and slouch intact. On the other are the young men on whom England's future depends." Alan Lee sees the first-class season begin in earnest..... Page 46

Snooker: Terry Griffiths, the No 6 seed, defeated David Roe 10-6 in the first round of the Embassy world snooker championship at Sheffield..... Page 42

Rugby Union: The International Rugby Football Board will conclude its annual deliberations this evening in Edinburgh and will indicate tomorrow how great its grasp remains of a game that seems at times to be galloping away from it..... Page 44

FEATURES

The pink vote: Almost a million demonstrators are expected to march on Washington this weekend for gay and lesbian rights. Kate Muir reports on homosexuals in the army..... Page 16

HOME AND ABROAD

Domestic carrier: An airline is contacting passengers after a hostess with TB passed on the bacteria to at least two crew members... Page 17

TRAVEL

National approach: An effective chairman for the British tourist industry might quell doubts about government support..... Page 18

ARTS

Slipping a Gere: Richard Gere is an unconvincing US Civil War veteran but Jodie Foster is excellent as his wife in *Sommersby*, one of the week's new films..... Page 37

Yes to Jenufa: Anja Silja, Jan Blinkhof and Nancy Gustafson give central performances which, together with the conducting of Jiri Kout, make the Royal Opera's revival of Janacek's *Jenufa* unmissable..... Page 38

Returned fire: Last Wednesday, Benedict Nightingale wrote a broadside against the revising and updating of old plays. Stephen Jeffreys, adapter of *A Jovial Crew*, opening in London tonight, defends the practice..... Page 39

PEOPLE IN THE TIMES



Sir Robin Butler, head of the home civil service, talks to *The Times* about the importance of integrity among public servants
Page 9



Suzanne Accosta, 33, an American fashion designer, married the former Rolling Stone Bill Wyman, 56, in France. It was his third marriage
Page 3



Joe Montana, the quarterback who led the San Francisco 49ers to four Superbowl titles, has joined the Kansas City Chiefs
Page 43

THE TIMES TOMORROW

The compact library

■ Can compact discs that store huge amounts of computerised information become the next big seller for Britain's living rooms?

Motorway manoeuvres

■ Is overtaking on the inside lane forbidden by *The Highway Code*? Vaughan Freeman analyses confusing motorway rules

Virgin territory

■ Is there room for two national rock radio networks? Radio 1 faces its greatest challenge next week, when Richard Branson launches Virgin 1215

TV LISTINGS

Did Butch Cassidy and Sundance Kid die in a hail of bullets or start a new life elsewhere? *True Stories* (Channel 4, 9.30pm)..... Page 47

OPINION

The dragon's cage

The Tiananmen Square massacre made a great impact on the West because it was shown live on television. But buried in the vastness of China, Mr Wu informs us, there are many Tiananmens..... Page 21

Reforming the crown

Contrary to Bagehot's hopes, daylight has been let in on the magic of the monarchy. Those that stand by the institution must take a lead in the arguments to come..... Page 21

Summit sums

Exactitude in cartography is as old a British competitive pursuit as climbing mountains, bearing the same relation to the hills as philately does to geography. They measure it because it is there. Or thereabouts..... Page 21

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Democracies rightly hate war. But just as they are reluctant to enter into the struggle, they are hard to hold back when convinced that they have no choice. It could be a start to the process of settling other wars to declare Europe a war-free zone, and to proceed against those who endanger Europe's peace. The more horrors one can see threatening the world, the less reason to leave this horror to burn unchecked..... Page 20

GEOFFREY BINDMAN

Legal cost-cutting proposals touching on the prosecution process, such as those made by the DPP, almost invariably, they favour the prosecution..... Page 20

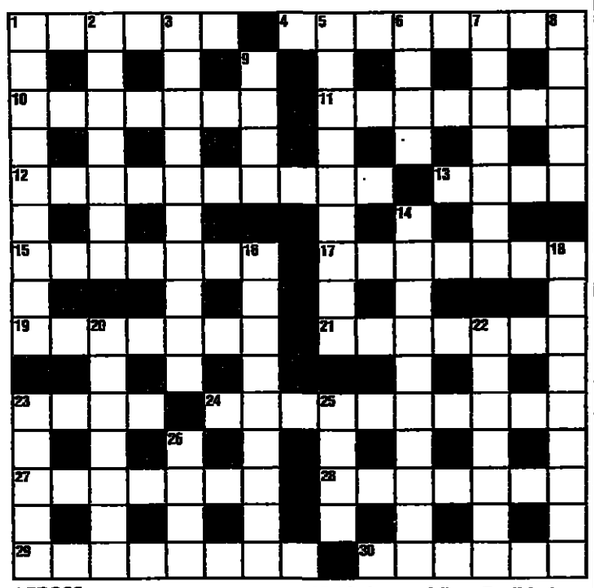
LETTERS

The managing director of Group 4 puts his company's case after several escapes by prisoners under escort..... Page 21

COMMENTATORS

The [Waco] siege was born of a bungled raid that cost the lives of four agents. It was transferred to an FBI that is not sure who its director will be tomorrow, who reports to an attorney-general whose leadership team is only half-picked. Waco has become a personal disaster for Janet Reno and ... a symbol of continuing danger for everyone
The New York Times

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,211



ACROSS

1 One pound, with another, is easily convertible (6).
4 In other words, requite what totters do (8).
10 Maid who breaks a dish? (7).
11 By the sound of it, go without a coat (7).
12 Gossip? Jack Sprat would never do that (4,3,3).
13 Cunning Frenchman not leading the parade (4).
15 Support country in disgrace (7).
17 Sailors love misbehaving, that's clear (7).
19 Demanding information — leaving without it (7).
21 Experiment, they say, with mushrooms — they produce muscle (7).
23 Floor sloped downwards (4).
24 Where a Frenchman might accommodate his girlfriend (4-1-5).
27 Lively party follows English chase (7).
28 Change one's mind and regret holding back part of inheritance (7).
29 In term-time, it causes merriment (8).
30 Salt used in the wrong dosage (3-3).

DOWN

1 Lots cease working, come down in the world (4,5).
2 Friends acting as king and queen at beginning of scene (7).
3 Where washing is done under a cloud (2,3,5).
5 Stop Lily going to the station (4,1,4).
6 Instrument starts to vibrate; it cracks eventually (4).
7 Sitting on the fence, and nervous about coat tail (7).
8 Chinese art holds the world enthralled (5).
9 Old actor-manager was cross (4).
14 Help when one's in position (10).
16 Foodstuff — men turn it into mince (9).
18 Gets eager untying a seasonal gift (6,3).
20 I shall say almost everything is against the rules (7).
22 Cross over valley carrying a flag (7).
23 Loud note, then quiet — that's original (5).
25 8 attempted to climb but lost direction (4).
26 Just fine! (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,210

T	R	A	M	P	O	L	I	N	E		S	O	U	P
R		U		R		O		A		D		U		A
I	N	G	R	A	I	N		P	O	I	N	T	E	D
T		M		I		G		L		A		E		L
E	X	E	C	R	A	B	L	E		L	A	R	G	O
		N		I		O		S		E				C
B	U	T	T	E		W	I	S	E	C	R	A	C	K
A		E		C				T		P		E		
P	E	R	C	H	A	N	C	E		O	V	O	I	D
T			I		A		L		C					
I	O	N	I	C		T	U	R	B	O	P	R	O	P
S		K		I	A	G		Y		U				
T	O	R	P	E	D	O		C	R	I	P	P	E	N
R		N		N		H		S		H		T		
Y	O	Y	O		E	S	S	E	N	T	I	A	L	S

Concise Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Heralds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Scotland will be mostly cloudy with patchy rain or drizzle chiefly in the west, whilst sheltered eastern and northern regions will be mainly dry. Northern Ireland will be mostly cloudy with patchy rain. Western England and Wales will be rather cloudy with patchy light rain likely over exposed coasts and hills. The rest of England will be dry with sunny spells but with a slight risk of a thundery shower over the south-east. Outlook: unsettled.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; lg=log; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	19	66	s	Madrid	13	55	c
Ahrotel	19	66	s	Majorca	21	70	s
Alex'dria	19	66	s	Malaga	18	61	c
Algiers	23	64	s	Malta	20	68	s
Amst'dm	16	61	s	Melb'rne	28	82	s
Athens	21	70	s	Miami*	27	81	s
Bahrain	35	95	s	Milan	20	68	s
Bangkok	34	93	f	Montreal*	1	34	r
Barbados*	30	86	c	Moscow	2	36	c
Barcelna	17	63	s	Munich	22	72	f
Beirut	19	66	s	Naples	19	66	f
Belgrade	17	63	s	N Delhi	37	99	s
Berlin	21	70	s	N York*	18	64	s
Bermuda*	21	70	f	Nice	17	63	s
Biarritz	17	63	f	Oslo	6	43	r
Borde'x	23	73	f	Paris	20	68	s
Brussels	21	70	f	Peking	23	73	s
Budapst	16	61	s	Perth	21	70	c
B Aires*	13	55	r	Prague	20	68	s
Cairo	24	75	s	Reykjavik	3	37	s
Cape Tn	28	82	s	Rhodes	21	70	s
Chicago*	3	37	c	Riyadh	35	95	s
Ch'church	7	45	r	Rome	18	64	s
Cologne	22	72	s	Salzburg	22	72	s
C'phgn	12	54	f	S Fr'sco*	18	64	f
Corfu	20	68	s	Santiago*	18	64	s
Dublin	12	54	c	Seoul	22	72	s
Dubrovnik	19	66	s	Sing'por	38	82	f
Faro	18	64	f	Sr'kholm	7	45	c
Florence	19	66	s	Strasb'rg	25	77	s
Frankfurt	23	73	s	Sydney	22	72	s
Funchal	17	63	c	Tangier	17	63	f
Geneva	21	70	s	Tel Aviv	22	72	s
Gibraltar	18	64	c	Tenerife	23	73	s
Helsinki	4	39	s	Tokyo	13	55	c
Hong K	21	70	f	Toronto*	14	57	f
Innsbrck	21	70	f	Tunis	24	75	s
Istanbul	15	59	s	Valencia	19	66	f
Jeddah	38	97	s	Vanc'ver*	14	57	f
Jo'burg*	21	70	f	Venice	17	63	s
L Palmas	22	72	s	Vienna	16	61	s
Le Touq	11	52	c	Warsaw	11	52	s
Lisbon	13	55	r	Wash'ton*	24	75	f
Locarno	17	63	s	Wel'nton	12	54	r
London	15	59	f	Zurich	21	70	s
L Angels*	23	73	s				
Luxembg	19	66	s				
Luxor	37	99	s				

* denotes figures are latest available

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 16C (64F); min 6pm to 6am, 11C (52F) Humidity: 6pm, 43 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 8.1hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6pm, 1,006.1 millibars, falling.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Cromer, Norfolk, 22C (72F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 0.62in; highest sunshine, Jersey, Channel Islands, 12.4hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 14C (57F); min 6pm to 6am, 8C (46F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, trace Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 1.6hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 13C (55F); min 6pm to 6am, 7C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.28in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 2.2hr.

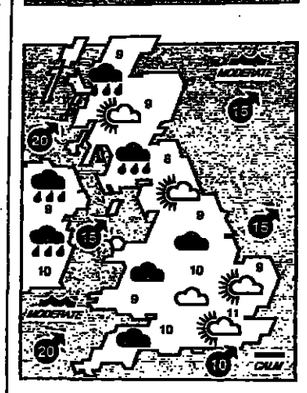
AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	3.0	0.04	13	55	rain
Anglesey	5.2	0.33	12	54	rain
Arrmore	4.5	0.04	14	57	shower
Belfast	3.2	0.25	13	55	shower
Birmingham	3.0	-	16	61	cloudy
Bognor Regis	11.8	-	17	63	sunny
Bournemouth	8.3	-	15	59	sunny
Bristol	1.7	-	16	61	cloudy
Buxton	1.2	0.01	13	55	cloudy
Cardiff	-	0.01	12	54	rain
Clacton	11.2	-	16	61	sunny
Colwyn Bay	6.9	0.01	14	57	bright
Cromer	X	-	22	72	sunny
Edinburgh	3.0	0.05	13	55	shower
Eskdalemuir	0.9	0.62	9	48	rain
Exmouth	2.5	-	14	57	bright
Falmouth	0.2	0.01	14	57	drizzle
Folkestone	11.1	-	16	61	sunny
Glasgow	4.3	0.15	13	55	rain
Guernsey	11.3	-	20	68	sunny
Hastings	11.2	-	16	61	sunny
Hunstanton	9.6	-	20	68	sunny
Isle Of Man	4.8	0.26	12	54	bright
Jersey	12.4	-	21	70	sunny
Kinloss	1.1	0.05	15	59	rain
Leeds	1.1	0.02	16	61	shower
Lerwick	-	0.58	7	45	rain
Littlehampton	11.7	-	16	61	sunny
Liverpool	1.8	0.03	13	55	rain
London	11.3	-	20	68	sunny
Lowestoft	10.0	-	15	59	sunny
Manchester	1.1	0.04	15	59	shower
Margate	11.4	-	21	70	sunny
Minehead	0.1	-	16	61	cloudy
Morecambe	2.6	0.11	12	54	rain
Newcastle	4.3	-	15	59	sunny
Nottingham	1.7	-	16	61	cloudy
Penzance	0.7	0.07	14	57	shower
Plymouth	0.8	-	13	55	cloudy
Salcombe	1.2	-	14	57	cloudy
Sandown	11.5	-	17	63	sunny
Saunton Snd	-	-	12	54	cloudy
Scarborough	3.2	-	16	61	bright
Scilly Isles	1.6	0.02	14	57	cloudy
Southsea	11.8	-	16	61	sunny
Stornoway	2.5	0.34	10	50	rain
Swanage	7.0	-	15	59	sunny
Teignmouth	3.4	-	16	61	sunny
Tenby	2.9	0.03	12	54	cloudy
Tiree	3.5	0.12	11	52	rain
Torquay	0.9	-	15	59	bright
Weymouth	4.5	-	13	55	sunny
Wick	0.2	0.09	11	52	rain
Worthing	11.2	-	14	57	sunny

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.245	2.045
Austria Sch	18.40	16.90
Belgium Fr	53.90	49.50
Canada $	2.055	1.895
Denmark Kr	10.07	9.27
Finland Mkk	9.16	8.36
France Fr	8.82	8.12
Germany Dm	2.61	2.41
Greece Dr	350.00	325.00
Hong Kong $	12.55	11.55
Ireland Pt	1.06	0.98
Italy Lira	2445.00	2300.00
Japan Yen	188.00	169.00
Netherlands Gld	2.937	2.707
Norway Kr	11.04	10.24
Portugal Esc	239.75	221.75
South Africa Rd	5.90	5.20
Spain Pta	184.50	171.50
Sweden Kr	11.99	11.19
Switzerland Fr	2.37	2.19
Turkey Lira	15400.0	14400.0
USA $	1.635	1.505

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.





LIGHTING-UP TIMES

London 5.39 pm to 5.20 am
Bristol 8.49 pm to 5.30 am
Edinburgh 9.04 pm to 5.20 am
Manchester 8.53 pm to 5.24 am
Penzance 8.57 pm to 5.45 am

Sun rises: 5.50 am
Sun sets: 8.09 pm
Moon rises 5.40 am
Moon sets 9.09 pm
First quarter April 29

Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989: The hours of darkness are defined in these Regulations as the period between half an hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise.

YESTERDAY

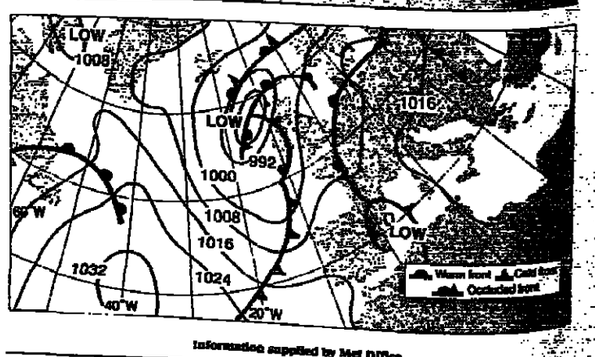
Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	13	55	f	Guernsey	12	54	f
B'mgham	13	55	c	Inverness	8	46	f
Blackpool	12	54	c	Jersey	13	55	s
Bristol	13	55	c	London	14	57	c
Cardiff	13	55	c	M'nchster	13	55	c
Edinburgh	10	50	c	Newcastle	11	52	c
Glasgow	7	45	r	Pr'mdeway	9	48	c

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2.54	6.8	3.13	6.9	Liverpool	12.06	8.9	12.23	9.1
Aberdeen	2.27	4.0	2.31	4.0	Lowestoft	10.50	2.3	10.48	2.3
Avonmouth	8.21	12.6	8.34	12.7	Margate	12.53	4.6	1.19	4.6
Belfast			12.11	3.2	Milford Haven	7.21	6.7	7.35	6.7
Cardiff	8.06	11.6	8.19	11.7	Newquay	6.11	6.7	6.25	6.7
Devonport	6.53	5.3	7.11	5.3	Oban	6.53	3.8	6.59	3.8
Dover			18.08	6.3	Penzance	5.48	5.4	6.07	5.4
Falmouth	6.23	5.1	6.41	5.1	Portland	7.50	2.0	8.11	2.0
Glasgow	1.58	4.3	2.21	4.2	Portsmouth	12.11	4.6	12.30	4.6
Harwich	12.46	3.8	1.07	3.9	Shoreham	12.06	5.9	12.21	5.9
Holyhead	11.26	5.3	11.42	5.3	Southampton			12.04	4.5
Hull	7.27	7.1	7.38	7.3	Swansea	7.28	9.2	7.39	9.2
Ilfracombe	7.05	8.7	7.19	8.8	Tees	4.41	5.0	4.52	5.1
King's Lynn	7.40	6.2	7.47	6.3	W'ton-on-Nze	12.39	4.0	1.00	4.1
Leith	3.40	5.2	3.47	5.2					

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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Reforming the crown

Contrary to Bagehot's ... daylight has been let in on ... the monarchy. Those ... the institution must ... the arguments to com... Page 21

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An RSC writer says old plays must be open to revision



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Gooch opens new campaign against young pretenders

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THURSDAY APRIL 22 1993

BUSINESS TODAY

ON THE UP

ZENECA

Zeneca, ICI's bioscience group, gave its parent company's shares a lift with a confident statement on current trading
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UP AND DOWN

Anatole Kaletsky warns the Chancellor that sterling's rollercoaster ride on the foreign exchanges is far from over
Page 29

ON A DOWN

GEC

GEC's Lord Weinstock sharply attacked the government's defence procurement policy for promoting too much competition
Page 26

THE POUND

US $ 1.5380 (-0.0065)
German mark ... 2.4651 (-0.0022)
Exchange index 80.1 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 2869.6 (+13.5)
Dow Jones 3438.62 (-4.87)*
Nikkei Avge .. 19773.01 (-55.42)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 6%
3-month Interbank 6 1/16-5 15/16%
US Federal Funds 2 7/16%*
3-month Treas Bills 2.81-2.80%*
Long Bond 6.74%*

CURRENCIES

New York:	London:
£:$ 1.5368*	£:$ 1.5365
$:DM .1.6048*	£:DM ...2.4623
$:SWfr.1.4608*	£:SWfr...2.2472
$:Fr ...5.4185*	£:Fr 8.3320
$:Yen .111.05*	£:Yen ...170.44
£:SDR ..1.0931	£:ECU ..1.2662

London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing ($):
AM 339.15 PM 339.00
Close 338.80-339.20
New York
Comex 338.75-339.25*

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 139.3 March (1.9%)
* Denotes midday trading price



Reflecting on men and marble: Labour believes Norman Lamont should accept some of the criticism over EBRD spending on its headquarters

Chancellor under fire as EBRD governor

BY JONATHAN PRYNN AND COLIN NARBROUGH

NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor, has come under attack from Labour for being "negligent" in failing to use his role as a governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to impose financial discipline at the bank.

The timing is an embarrassment for the government, as the annual meeting of the EBRD starts in London tomorrow, bringing together thousands of businessmen and ministers from the 58 countries behind the bank.

Alistair Darling, the opposition City spokesman, said it was "high time" the Chancellor took some responsibility for the much-criticised levels of spending on the bank's Broadgate headquarters "or, if not, find someone who can".

Jacques Attali, the bank's president, was censured on Tuesday by Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, for damaging the two-year-old institution's reputation after allegations of excessive spending.

Labour has tabled two Commons questions demanding explanations for the £200 million spent on the EBRD's offices and other overheads since 1991.

Although the bank was an international organisation, the British government had a special obligation, as host, in London, to the bank, to ensure that it fulfilled its mandate, Mr Darling said.

Labour wants a supervisory board to be set up to oversee the expenditure and investments of the bank.

Mr Darling said: "What is badly needed is someone to look over the bank's shoulders and ensure that it does what it's supposed to do. Had there been adequate supervision from outside, someone would have noticed what was going on with the Italian marbelling and the Christmas parties. It was a classic case of people spending other people's money."

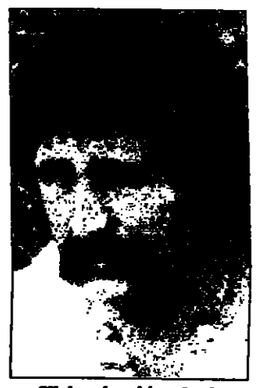
The EBRD, keen to restore its battered image in the run-up to the annual meeting, yesterday rushed out announcements on three big new deals in the former Soviet bloc. Having faced fierce criticism for lending too little, it said it had agreed an 47.4 million ecu (£37 million) loan for a gas-fired power station in Armenia and a 30 million ecu loan for an Italian-Polish steel joint venture in Poland.

A third deal, likely to attract more attention, was an agreement for the EBRD to take a 20 per cent stake in a private Romanian bank founded by Ion Tiriac, the former tennis player who coached Boris Becker.

Tiriac Bank, Romania's leading privately owned bank, has assets of $123 million and shareholders' funds of $33.5 million.

Ron Freeman, head of merchant banking at the EBRD, said yesterday that he expected equity investment in Eastern Europe to be stepped up and considers boosting trade as a key issue this year. He firmly defended the bank's lending record, arguing that it was not only governed by the principles of sound banking but by strict rules imposed by its shareholders.

He said the priorities in merchant banking were to increase the share of equity finance, to concentrate on promoting trade by working with local banks to provide trade credits and increase the EBRD's presence on the ground in eastern and central Europe.



Tiriac: bankbanked

New blow for tunnel builders

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE five British contractors working on the Channel tunnel, some of which are already in severe financial difficulties, will have to each find £40 million over the next year to stay on the project, according to building industry research.

They may also have to weather a four-year legal battle to obtain payment for the £8 billion-plus project, claims the industry publication *Building*. The need to find such huge sums while still waiting to be paid would heavily strain finances, raising fears that some may collapse.

Building says the ten contractors that make up Trans-Manche Link, half of them French, will have to pay out up to £400 million over the next year. The ten have already budgeted £200 million to meet the difference between their costs and the agreed payments from Eurotunnel, the project's operator with whom they are locked in a cash dispute. But *Building* says damages for late completion that start running from August could also total £200 million before the tunnel opens next summer.

Sources at Eurotunnel, which on Monday accused the builders of deliberate delays and blackmail, admit concern that one or more of the companies could go under.

Washington starts sanctions on EC

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

■ A partial deal in the transatlantic dispute over public procurement policy will not prevent some American sanctions and leaves the risk of further damaging flare-ups

AMERICA will today implement sanctions on the European Community over its public procurement policy after Washington and Brussels last night reached only partial agreement in last-minute negotiations aimed at averting a transatlantic trade war.

Mickey Kantor, the American trade representative, sought to put a favourable gloss on the partial deal reached with his Community counterpart, Sir Leon Brittan. He said an agreement on public purchasing policy for heavy electrical engineering equipment would open the way to $20 billion of business both ways across the Atlantic.

But in the other key area of the negotiations, telecommunications equipment, he said there was no agreement and European policy remained damaging to American interests. Sanctions would go ahead.

The central issue now is whether the partial accord will be enough to prevent further deterioration in trade relations between Brussels and Washington. The two negotiators resorted to transatlantic telephone talks yesterday after two days of wrangling in Washington failed to produce a breakthrough.

The European Community is expected to reciprocate against US sanctions. An all-out trade battle is widely seen as a threat to the successful conclusion of the world trade talks.

Despite the repeated commitment from both sides of the Atlantic to an early Uruguay round accord, it appears that Washington and Brussels still have great difficulty when seeking agreement in specific areas of trade.

Each wants the other to scrap rules that favour local businesses when it comes to bidding for government contracts.

Mr Kantor told reporters on Tuesday that he and Sir Leon "hoped to reach a conclusion one way or the other". He said the two had achieved "some elements of agreement and elements of disagreement". In some areas they were "very close" in others "not as close", he said.

If the two sides were to drop restrictions, Brussels believes it could fare well in areas like airport construction and mass transit, while Washington says its telecommunications and heavy electrical companies could prosper if let loose in Europe.

Sir Leon has his own counter-strikes at the ready, but has refused to give details.

Imposing sanctions will confirm fears that the Clinton administration is ready to put its money where its mouth is when it comes to defending American economic interests.

The Clinton team insists it is not "tough for the sake of (being) tough" but simply wants trade justice.

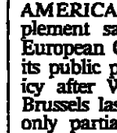
Officials in both Brussels and Washington were united, however, in giving a wait-and-see message, refusing to make odds on the outcome.

"It's at the political level now," said an EC official, adding that now was the time for decisions, not negotiations.

Mr Kantor, whose moves have repeatedly caught trading partners short, has postponed the sanctions before in an effort to keep relations on track and advance efforts to conclude the Uruguay Round.

Carla Hills, trade negotiator under President Bush, said: "This procurement issue is one that we must continue to push on. Europe is behaving inappropriately on this. After all, it's in their best interest to have a broad range of choices at the lowest possible price."

America and Japan on collision course



IRWIN STELZER

Washington's dwindling band of free trade advocates has spent the past few days trying to regroup after President Clinton's shoot-out with Kiichi Miyazawa, Japan's prime minister. Mr Miyazawa plays down the brawl, claiming he and the president "basically agree as to what we should do".

Hardly. The two men start with entirely different views of the world. Mr Clinton, at 46, has no experience of World War II and only unhappy memories of his country's involvement (and his own lack of it) in the last major Asian conflict, in Vietnam. He thinks the American-Japanese cold war partnership is outdated.

Miyazawa, at 73, sees things differently. China is on the verge of superpower status, North Korea is building a nuclear weapon, Russia refuses to return the Kurile Islands and regional conflicts are rife. Asian memories of the atrocious behaviour of Japan's conquering armies during World War II make it difficult for Japan to assume the role of Asia's peace keeper. Only America can fill that role.

Clinton and Miyazawa also have very different views of the relative strengths of their countries. The Japanese still see themselves as a small island nation, devoid of natural resources, depending on the world for everything from oil to food. To them, America is all-powerful, blessed with natural resources, huge spaces and unequalled military power. If Americans would work harder, save more and spend less, they say, our country would become competitive.

Clinton is a product of the American declinist school, a group of academics that includes his labour secretary, Robert Reich. Declinists see America as suffering declining productivity and competitiveness, a crumbling infrastructure, an ill-educated workforce and social problems that only huge infusions of taxpayer cash can cure. They see Japan as an economic powerhouse, led by wily traders who keep out American products and refuse to devote resources to their country's defence.

So weak is America, and so strong is Japan, in this view, that Clinton is calling on Japan to lead the way to global economic growth. The international economic locomotive, he contends, will be made in Japan, not in the US. Because Miyazawa must keep a reluctant America involved in Asian security, he cannot just say no to the president's trade demands. He politely agreed with Clinton that the persistent trade imbalance between the two countries is bad. Last year, 58 per cent of the $84 billion US trade deficit was accounted for by trade with Japan. Japan's prime minister said he finds the imbalance "embarrassing".

Agreement stops there. The Japanese want to develop broad-based structural solutions — a stepped-up stimulus package in Japan that might suck in a few imports, new policies in America to encourage higher savings so that consumers buy fewer imports. That is too vague for Clinton's taste. Trade, he says, must henceforth be "managed", with America assigned a targeted share of Japan's markets for specific products. The president takes as his model the computer chip deal, which assigned 20 per cent of Japan's market to American firms. It worked: US companies were garnering that share by the end of last year.

Japan must never agree on managed trade, says Miyazawa. Such targets will not work in his country's market economy, because the government cannot tell its businesses and consumers what to buy. Here, Miyazawa is on shaky ground. Japan's cabinet earlier this month endorsed a policy of maintaining self-sufficiency in rice; the government has kept as trivial an item as American apples out of Japan for 18 years by continuously revising health and quarantine requirements; many American products that sell well in other countries somehow cannot find their way on to Japan's shelves.

In short, the world's two strongest economies are on a collision course. America wants its trade deficit with Japan reduced now. Miyazawa says we should be patient. America wants to switch from free trade to managed trade; Japan says it will never do that. If Japan persists, and America meets that refusal with wide-ranging retaliation, a trade war will be under way. If Japan gives in, free trade will be replaced by bureaucrats carving up markets. Either way, consumers lose.

National Provident Institution

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 157th Annual General Meeting of members of the National Provident Institution will be held at the City Conference Centre, 76 Mark Lane, London EC3 on Wednesday, 19 May 1993 at 12 noon for the transaction of the following ordinary business.

■ To receive and consider the accounts and report of the directors for the year ended 31 December 1992.

■ To re-elect directors. Under Rule 46(1)(b) of the Company's Rules, notice is hereby given that Mr G.V. Bayley, one of the directors proposed for re-election, will have attained the age of 72 years at the date of the meeting.

■ To re-appoint Coopers & Lybrand as auditor and to authorise the directors to determine their remuneration.

By order of the Board, S.J. O'Brien, Secretary. Principal Office, National Provident House, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2UE.

NOTE: A member entitled to attend and vote at the general meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and on a poll, to vote instead of him or her. A proxy need not be a member of NPI. Proxy forms are available on request from the Company Secretary at the Principal Office. Completed proxy forms should be deposited at the Principal Office not later than 12 noon on 17 May 1993.

NPI

If you would like a copy of NPI's Report and Accounts 1992, please write to John Fisher, National Provident Institution, National Provident House, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2UE.

Name _____

Address _____

Weinstock attacks government defence policy



Weinstock: too competitive

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LORD Weinstock, managing director of GEC, one of Britain's main defence suppliers, attacked government defence procurement policy yesterday as promoting too much competition. His remarks, to a Commons select committee, cover past and current policy on buying equipment.

Ministers are likely to consider seriously Lord Weinstock's call for industrial support from the government comparable to that given by governments in competitor countries, though some will regard his criticisms as little more than a special interest complaint that GEC has not been awarded enough defence contracts. About a fifth of GEC's business is directly military-related.

Lord Weinstock said competitor governments had supported their defence industries, while the UK had taken a more *laissez-faire* attitude. He told the all-party trade and industry committee: "There has been too much competition", and while the principle of competition was not wrong, the application of it could be, given that, in defence, there was only one customer.

Giving evidence to the committee's enquiry into Britain's aerospace industry, Lord Weinstock said the defence ministry's previous system of awarding contracts had been "subject to quite a lot of abuse". In order to get budgets approved by the Treasury, the ministry and contractors were under pressure to underestimate the costs and timing of projects, with the result that everyone involved knew that many project estimates were "not at all realistic".

Only in recent years had defence procurement been subjected to discipline, but Lord Weinstock said the reaction against the previous loose system "probably went too far". GEC told the committee that partnerships between government and industry "need not involve the end of competition or the return of so-called 'cosy relationships'". But it was necessary to realise that a "free market in defence equipment is more ephemeral than real". Lord Weinstock said that without government support, British manufacturing industry would continue to decline to the point where "we will have balance of payments problems which will be insupportable."

Dowty, the aerospace equipment supplier, told the committee that the government needed to bridge the gap between the investment community's preoccupation with short-term performance and the long-term investment the industry needed.

The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions also called for a pro-active government policy.

Slow pace of German rate cuts likely to continue

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bundesbank council is today likely to stick to its course of cutting interest rates slowly despite growing evidence of deepening recession and pressure from its European partners to speed up its monetary easing.

The German central bank yesterday made another minimal cut in its key repurchase rate from 8.11 per cent to 8.09 per cent, marking the third week in succession that that rate has been cut by a mere 0.02 basis points.

Odds on a cut in the official discount rate — last lowered by 0.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent on March 19 — are long, particularly after yesterday's surprise jump in the key M3 measure of German money supply growth, which followed two months of decline.

However, there is speculation that the council could cut its 9 per cent Lombard Rate, which acts as a ceiling for money market interest rates. The divergence from money market rates suggests scope for a 0.25 per cent to 0.5 per cent cut in the Lombard rate.

Remarks by Helmut Schlesinger, president of the Bundesbank, in America last week suggested that he will not be forced to speed up the process of rate cuts. He repeated his view that rates are already historically low and that he is not prepared to abandon his primary goal of bearing down on inflation.

There is increasing tension between these priorities in Bonn as well as concerns about the recession.

Guenter Rexrodt, the German economics minister, said yesterday that the economy could decline even further this year than had been forecast, depressed by weak foreign demand for German exports, high wage agreements and sliding consumer confidence. At the same time, the government forecast that the federal budget deficit would swell to DM70 billion this year, much higher than earlier estimates of DM54 billion.

Tyll Necker, president of the Federation of German Industry (BDI), said that a deep decline took hold last autumn and would continue at least until the end of this year. He said: "We must expect a decline in gross domestic product of between 1 and 2 per cent."

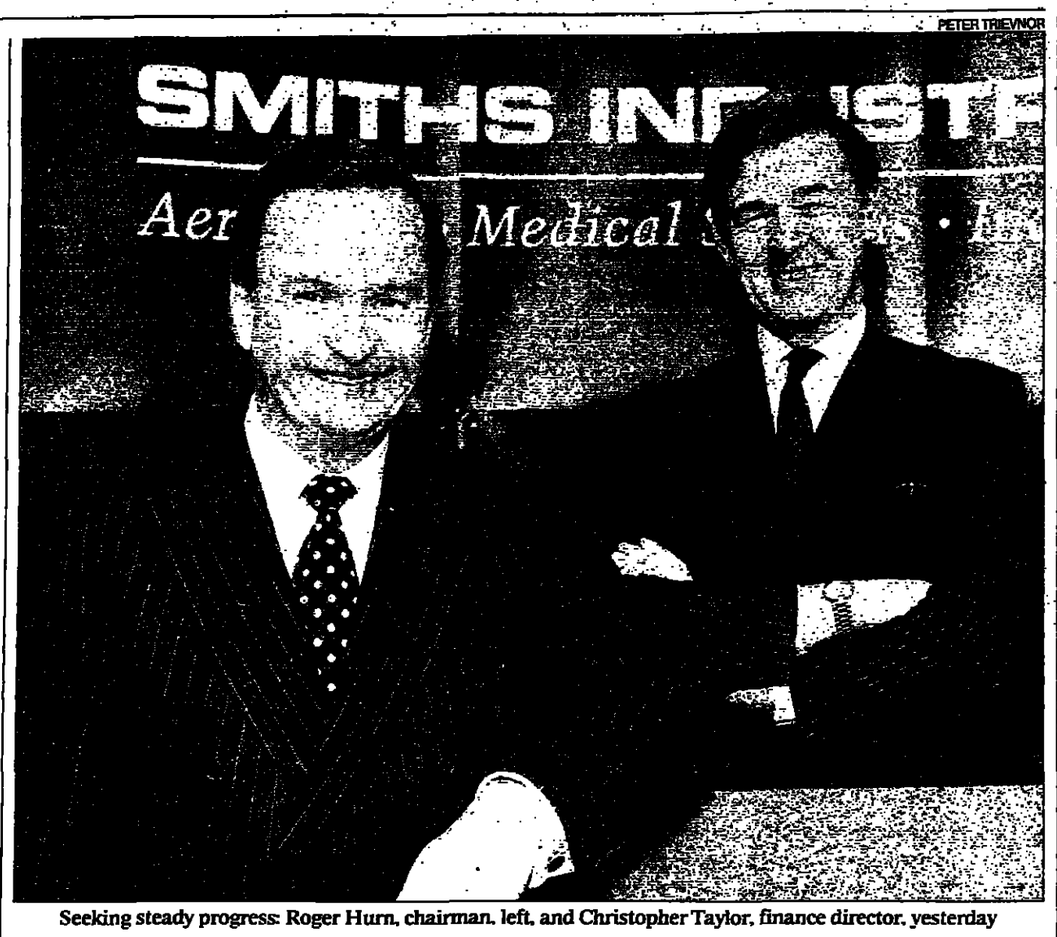
☐ The economic slowdown in Europe is calling into question the timetable for monetary union in 1997, as enshrined in the Maastricht Treaty, according to a report from the Treasury and Civil Service Committee.

The report also said that there would be increasing political pressure on Britain from its European Community partners to rejoin the exchange-rate mechanism.

With fiscal deficits rising as European economies slow and German inflation well above the level required under Maastricht, the process towards economic convergence, needed before monetary union, is becoming ever more difficult.

A majority of EC countries must participate in the union but this, according to the report, looks unlikely.

It said: "The current figures on performance against the criteria, together with knowledge of the likely trends in relation to some of the criteria in some of the members states, do not provide a solid basis for confidence that seven of the current 12 member states will fulfil all of the criteria by the second half of 1996."



Seeking steady progress: Roger Hurn, chairman, left, and Christopher Taylor, finance director, yesterday

Amber Day expects stake sale

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

PHILIP Green, the former chairman of Amber Day Holdings who resigned from the retailer last September, is expected by the company to sell his 8 per cent holding.

Stacey Ellis, Mr Green's replacement since the start of the year, said he expected Mr Green to sell his 9.5 million shares before too long, possibly to fund a further business venture.

Amber Day was reporting interim figures to end-January transformed from a loss of £6.29 million last time to a £4.45 million profit and a half-way dividend held at 1.1p.

Mr Green resigned after adverse publicity mounted last summer, and received £1.1 million in compensation, taken out of the interim figures as a one-off charge.

Mr Ellis said sales at the core What Everyone Wants operation were up 17 per cent at the halfway stage, 8 per cent coming from new store openings and the balance a like-for-like increase.

The company has managed to cut its huge rate of shrinkage, part coming from theft of goods by staff, from 7 per cent three years ago to about 3 per cent, by introducing improved accounting and other disciplines, but this is still way ahead of the industry average.

Mr Ellis said the company had heard no more from the trade department, which was earlier examining the books, and had no knowledge of whether this had resulted in an enquiry by the Serious Fraud Office.

Amber Day shares were 5p higher at 79p.

Julie Ramshaw, retail analyst at Morgan Stanley, said a £5.5 million pre-tax figure was £1 million above her expectations, but she is keeping her forecast at £9 million for the year before exceptional items. She said that a solid Christmas trading period helped to boost the figures, as did a smooth management transition to Mr Ellis's stewardship after Mr Green's departure.

Tempus, page 29

Half-time payout up at Smiths

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

SMITHS Industries has declared a 4.88 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 4.3p a share despite a £4 million fall to £40.3 million in half-time pre-tax profits.

Roger Hurn, chairman and chief executive, reiterated his determination that the group will "return to a growth path for profit and earnings a share". He added: "We expect to achieve steady progress in the remainder of the year and beyond." Operating profits rose from £37.8 million to £38.6 million, and for the first time profits from medical systems were higher than those from aerospace activities.

However, Smiths has written £3 million off a $5 million trade investment made two years ago in a north American company that hoped to develop a blood pressure monitoring device. That left pre-tax profits at £40.3 million (£44.3 million) on a turnover of £328 million (£307.4 million).

Boeing remains Smiths' largest customer, but Boeing's output of 737s is predicted to continue to fall. However, an upturn in civil aerospace is expected later in the decade.

Smiths spent £122 million on acquisitions during the interim period, and at January 30 net cash balances stood at £5 million.

Tempus, page 29

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BAe's partner calls for more Taiwan state aid

TAIWAN Aerospace Corp, which established a £240 million joint venture with British Aerospace in January, has asked the Taiwanese government to increase its stake in the company to alleviate difficulties in raising capital from private investors. Taiwan Aerospace was established in 1991 and originally planned to have a capitalisation of Taiwan $5.2 billion, with 29 per cent owned by the government. But it has had trouble raising funds, and paid-in capital is currently only T$1.3 billion. The joint venture with BAe will make regional passenger jets, with assembly work to be performed in both Taiwan and Britain.

TAC has denied reports it has asked the government to take a 51 per cent shareholding. "We have no intention of turning Taiwan Aerospace into a state-owned company. We would like to keep it private," a spokesman said. Negotiations on the government's involvement are underway.

Christies buys Spink

CHRISTIES International, the auctioneer, has made a successful bid for Spink & Son, the art dealer. It has paid £7.1 million initially to Andrew Weir & Company, the present owner. Spink, founded in 1666, is next door to Christies in London. It conducts its own auctions and deals in coins, medals, oriental works of art and British pictures. Christies said the acquisition gave it the opportunity to expand its services into new areas of the art market, particularly South East Asia and South America.

Henry Boot advances

HENRY Boot & Sons, the civil engineer and property developer, saw 1992 pre-tax profits rise from £6.8 million to £7.1 million, on £129 million turnover. House sales were 50 per cent ahead of 1991 levels, though at lower margins. Operating profits were 20 per cent ahead at £5.2 million. The investment portfolio was revalued and a write-down of properties offset by retained earnings, which boosted net asset value per share to 161p (157p) at December 31. Dividend is up 9 per cent on earnings per share of 18.9p (18.4p).

Gold coin demand rises

SALES of gold bullion coins direct from mints rose by 35 per cent to 62 tonnes last year, a quarterly report from the World Gold Council shows. Demand in Europe was 89 per cent higher at 34 tonnes, as local coin distributors raised stock levels ahead of the lifting by Germany of the 14 per cent VAT on bullion. During the first quarter of 1993, average sales of gold coins and bars was approximately five times that of the same period in 1992, Hugo Hagen, of DG-Bank in Munich, said. Industrial use of gold was 13 per cent higher.

Havelock losses grow

LOSSES at Havelock Europa, the shopfitter, deepened to £3.06 million (£2.5 million loss) before tax last year under the burden of redundancy costs and depressed demand from retailers. Overheads were reduced by £1.7 million last year and further reductions are expected in the current year. In 1991, the workforce was cut to 609 from 831 and a pay freeze was implemented for the third year running. Turnover fell to £33 million (£38 million) last year. Gearing fell to 26 per cent. The shares eased 3p to 56p.

Helical returns to black

HELICAL Bar, the property investment company, is back in profit with a pre-tax return of £5.9 million for the year to January 31 and a 20 per cent rise in the dividend to 4.8p. The company made a loss in 1991 of £7.6 million. Helical sold £38 million of property last year and profits totalled £2.9 million. Net asset value rose by 4p to 224p despite a 3.6 per cent fall in the portfolio value, which totalled £88.6 million at year end. Helical's net debt fell from £116 million to £78 million during the year, which puts gearing at 170 per cent.

Forward seeks £1.3m

FORWARD Group, the circuits concern which acquired Central Circuits in February, is making a share placing and open offer to raise £1.31 million net on the basis of one-for-nine at 175p. The money will be used to reduce borrowings and fund acquisitions. Pre-tax profits for the year ending January 31 were £1.23 million, compared with £660,000 in the previous year. Sales in the opening months of the current year have exceeded budget. A final dividend of 2p (1.5p) makes 3.3p.

Beckenham cuts loss

BECKENHAM Group, the heating duct business, made a pre-tax loss of £5.12 million in the year to end-October, against a £5.45 million loss last time. The company saw a small improvement in margins. There is no dividend for the year — in 1990-1, before last year's rights issue and restructuring, a 0.5p interim was paid. Beckenham made an operating loss of £1.995 million before exceptional charges of £2.3 million, mainly for reorganisation, redundancies and property writedowns. Net debt was £3.1 million (£12.2 million).

Air France descends

BY A CORRESPONDENT

AIR FRANCE, the French state-owned airline, showed losses of Ffr3.266 billion (£392 million) in 1992, the group announced yesterday, compared with losses of Ffr685 million in 1991.

The losses included an exceptional provision of Ffr723 million set aside in connection with group membership of the AGIRC/ARRCO system, for supplementary retirement benefits for employees. Group sales, consisting of Air France-UTA and Air Inter airlines, and a number of tourist-related subsidiaries, dipped by 1.1 per cent to Ffr57.1 billion (Ffr57.6 billion).

Passenger transport accounted for sales of Ffr37.6 billion, up 1.9 per cent on a traffic volume up by 4 per cent. Cargo transport brought in Ffr6.8 billion, down 9.1 per cent on traffic that was up 0.4 per cent in volume terms. Net operating charges were limited to a 1.9 per cent rise but the operating result showed a loss of Ffr1.5 billion, against a Ffr212 million profit in 1991.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

BARLOWS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £654,000 loss
EPS: 2.65p loss
Div: Nil, mkg 0.825p
Loss in previous year was £339,000 with a loss per share of 0.77p, and the total dividend was 2.475p. NAV fell to 69.8p from 85.2p

BOURNE END PROP. (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.15m loss
EPS: 11.2p loss
Div: 1p (1p)
Loss in previous year was £1.4m with a loss per share of 13.7p. NAV fell to 73p a share from 103p. Borrowing unchanged year-on-year

DENCORA (Fin)
Pre-tax: £936,000 loss
EPS: 3.1p loss
Div: 3p (5.5p)
Profit in previous year was £404,000, with earnings per share of 4.7p. Turnover fell to £20.6m from £36.2m

JACKS (Wm) (Fin)
Pre-tax: £417,000 loss
EPS: 5.4p loss
Div: Nil (nil)
Loss in previous year was £850,000 with a loss per share of 6.64p. There was an exceptional charge of £114,000

JEROME (S) & SONS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £246,000 loss
EPS: 3.7p loss
Div: Nil (nil)
Loss last year was £1.15m, with loss per share of 10.5p. Company has made extraordinary charge of £1.3m against loss on disposal

REGINA (Int)
Pre-tax: £143,000
EPS: 0.09p (0.34p loss)
Div: Nil (nil)
There was a loss of £457,000 in previous year. Improvement achieved on marginal increase in turnover

British Gas encouraging competition.

British Gas announces changes to its Contract Pricing Schedules.

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British Gas

McMahon surfaces as head of profit-seeking think tank

BY SARAH BAGNALL

SIR Kit McMahon, the former Midland Bank chairman and deputy governor of the Bank of England, is heading a new "think-tank" aimed at spotting profit-making opportunities in the financial services industry.

The Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation (CSFI), based in London, will draw on the ideas and knowledge of a large number of financial experts, including bankers, analysts, journalists and accountants.

Sir Kit said CSFI will focus on changes in the financial world that will enable the "private sector to make more money from innovation". Despite its aim, the centre itself is non-profit making and is registered as a charity.

Funding for the first six months of the centre's life has been raised from a large number of sponsors, including Merrill Lynch, Lloyds Bank, Abbey National, IBM, Price Waterhouse and Stoy Hayward. Each sponsor is providing £3,500, raising a total of £56,000.



Sir Kit: floating ideas

Andrew Hilton, a financial and economic consultant who will run the centre, said the sponsors had agreed to provide £800,000, but the centre had decided to "start small and establish a track record that will enable us to go back to potential sponsors with something more than a hope and a wish".

Mr Hilton said that at the end of six months CSFI hoped to have completed a number of studies, which it has already identified.

A paper on environmental liabilities is expected to be the first to be finished. The centre is looking at whether there is a an opening, or a need, for a credit rating service for environmental risks.

Other areas of research are securitisation and derivatives in the capital markets, retail financial services, project finance, financial technology, regulatory issues, privatisation, emerging markets, and the "culture" of innovation. Another study into how best the West should spend its official dollars in Russia is being done by Peter Ackerman, the junk-bond expert who replaced Michael Milken as head of junk bonds at Drexel Burnham Lambert, after Mr Milken's imprisonment.

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First-quarter gain at Zeneca helps boost ICI shares

BY GEORGE STYELL
CITY EDITOR

The City took heart from a confident trading statement and expects that the Zeneca share price will settle at about £6 after the £1.3 billion rights issue

ICI shares rose 41p to £12.36p after Zeneca, its soon to be demerged bioscience group, said trading in 1993 had started "on a firm note".

Zeneca said results from pharmaceuticals for the first quarter of 1993 were ahead of the first quarter of 1992. The statement came in the draft prospectus for Zeneca, which will announce terms of a rights issue to raise £1.3 billion on May 12, to be approved by shareholders at an extraordinary meeting on May 28.

Analysts said the small print of the prospectus contained nothing price sensitive and that Zeneca still had something to prove with its pipeline of new products. The City is looking for a reasonable dividend yield when the rights issue is priced.

Zeneca has already promised a dividend of 27.5p a share. Brokers say a £6 share price would offer a yield of 5.7 per cent.

Zeneca said that so far this year it had enjoyed continued strong growth of sales of Zestril (to treat hypertension and congestive heart failure), Zoladex (prostate cancer), Nolvadex (breast cancer) and Diprivan (anaesthetic) despite a lower contribution from Tenormin, the heart drug that recently lost its patent.

Zeneca said agrochemicals results were below 1992 levels but added that forward order books at the end of March were encouraging. Common agricultural policy reforms have left the agrochemicals industry expecting a poor year this year and next. Zeneca's other division, specialties, is ahead of the first quarter of last year.

Overall trading profits, Zeneca said, "are usefully ahead of the performance levels achieved in the first quarter of 1992. While it is too early in the year to express any definite views regarding prospects for the full year, the directors of Zeneca are confident that the group can build on the good start to the year." First-quarter results are due from ICI next week.

The Zeneca trading statement coincided with strong rises for other British pharmaceutical stocks such as Wellcome, up 30p to 764p, Glaxo, up 19p to 599p, and SmithKline Beecham, up 24p to 468p.

The entire drug sector of the stock market rose 3.5 per cent on the day. The gains this week among pharmaceutical shares follow an announcement by 15 of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies that they will collaborate in trying to find a combination of drugs that can treat Aids and market suggestions that the Clinton health reform package in America will allow price rises by drug companies at the level of inflation.

Zeneca says it is to concentrate drug research on six therapeutic areas and has 13 new drugs in human clinical development.

Five of these will reach phase III clinical development during 1993, meaning applications for approval could be expected in the next three years.

John Mayo, the finance director, said Zeneca will start life with net assets of about £1.5 billion and net debt of £400 million.

He added: "Our initial objective is for a 15 per cent return on sales but we will strive to achieve 20 per cent over the medium-term."

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DENZIL McNEELANCE



On draft: ICI's Sir Denys Henderson, left, and Zeneca chief David Barnes

AT&T on line to push for British telephone licence

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN Telephone and Telegraph, the $76 billion international telecommunication group, is poised to escalate its campaign to gain a telephone licence in Britain.

Approval of the filing, now with the trade and industry department, could explode the prices that British Telecom charges foreign companies using its UK network and those it charges for re-selling international calls across the Atlantic.

An AT&T spokesman said: "We are very serious about this application and will be meeting with industry groups, academics and will increase the lobbying of MPs."

AT&T says Oftel, the watchdog body for the telecommunications industry, has promised to set up a method that would enable BT's pricing for the use of its network to become transparent.

"If we gain this licence it will change the way the industry is structured between the US and the UK and the resulting competition would benefit UK customers," the spokesman added.

Robert Allen, AT&T's chairman, said: "Our main goal over the next several years is to give multinational corporations the same service in the UK as we give US corporations at home."

Ironically, the telephone group is set to boost the coffers of BT, by paying $1.75 billion for a 22 per cent in McCaw Cellular Communications as part of a deal to take a third share in America's largest mobile telephone company.

AT&T's onslaught into the UK market comes as it is making record profits at home. First-quarter figures showed a 2.2 per cent rise in revenues to $15.72 billion and a 13 per cent rise in operating profits before interest and special charges at $1.625 billion.

A $6.6 billion charge relating to the future cost of its employee health care, pushed the bottom line into the red by $5.6 billion, compared with a net income of $883 million for the same period last year.

Mr Allen says he is confident that the first-quarter profits momentum can be maintained for the rest of the year, although AT&T's own economists predict a 3 per cent real growth this year, much slower than a normal recovery.

Alex Mandl, AT&T's chief financial officer, said earnings growth of 10 per cent, excluding accounting charges, in 1993 was on target and that growth was on a sound footing.

Wall Street was unimpressed, and wiped $1 billion off the stock market value as the most widely held share in America dropped 87.5 cents to $57. Unnerving the market was Mr Allen's acknowledgement that the battle with his two rivals, MCI and Sprint is "at a high peak" and that its own market share was "holding flat".

Scottish Widows merrier

BY SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

SCOTTISH Widows said the problems that resulted in the life assurance regulator imposing its highest-ever fine have been "fully resolved".

Last December, the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation fined Scottish Widows £120,000 for failing to train and supervise its tied agents properly. The penalty followed months of speculation, which had been triggered by a check on the company by the regulator in spring 1991.

Mike Ross, managing director, said after Lautro's visit last year that a "thorough and comprehensive" review had been carried out. As a result, Scottish Widows has strengthened its compliance function, introduced a management structure for the appointed representatives business and improved its training.

The penalty was expected to have an adverse impact on Scottish Widows results, which were announced yesterday. The area thought to be the most sensitive to the fine was single premium business, which has grown strongly over the past few years, in line with all insurers. Scottish Widows reported a fall in single premium income for the group from £1 billion to £928 million for the year to end-December.

Annual premiums grew from £766 million to £858 million, helped by a 16 per cent leap in non-linked life premiums and growth in pensions. Exit from the exchange-rate mechanism helped investment income rise from £717 million to £812 million after interest.

Thames to sell US production company

BY MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THAMES Television, after the failure to win a renewal of the weekday franchise to broadcast to the London area, has thrown in the towel in efforts to turn round Reeves, the loss-making American production company, and is in talks to sell the business to its management.

Thames bought Reeves in 1989 for $90 million (then £60 million), a move which some date as the start of the decline in the British company's fortunes. Thames is reckoned to have overpaid, and the loss of the ITV franchise has deprived it of advertising revenues that would have funded future development.

Reeves sells mainly to American television, but two comedies, *Kate 'n' Allie* and *Gimme A Break*, have reached British screens. Talks with management have started, and no price has yet been struck. The need to account for the sale severely dented 1992 profits from Thames.

At the pre-tax level the company improved from £8.2 million to £44.4 million. But extraordinary items of £93.5 million are swollen by £74.3 million relating to Reeves, including a £51.5 million provision for goodwill previously written off to reserves. Thames had said provisions could reach £42 million.

This leaves an attributable loss of £68.8 million and Thames without distributable reserves and unable to pay a final dividend. The company has also had to admit a technical breach of the Companies Act when it paid 2.5p a share at the half-way stage.

Thames's main shareholder, Thorn EMI, is in talks to sell its 58 per cent holding to Pearson ahead of a full takeover bid. Thames shares fell 5p to 174p.

Tempus, page 29

Court order against investment salesman

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

AN INVESTMENT salesman who once boasted that he earned $1 million a year in commission has been stopped by the High Court in London from selling any investments. Orders were made to restrain Ian Francis Lloyd-Wright and the LW Investment Corporation from conducting investment business, making unsolicited calls and making misleading statements in the UK, and to stop them disposing of or dealing with any assets.

The injunctions were obtained by the Securities and Investments Board to protect UK investors. The regulator acted after a complaint from an insurance company that LW Investments was persuading investors to transfer out of life policies into its funds.

SIB now wants to hear from other investors so that it can find out how much has been invested with LWI, which has its registered office in Delaware, America, and a client service centre operating through a PO box number in Limassol, Cyprus. Mr Lloyd-Wright, its principal director, also has offices in Transvaal and Johannesburg. South Africa. The regulator has heard from 20 investors who put £700,000 with LW within a three-month period. It also knows of another 30 investors.

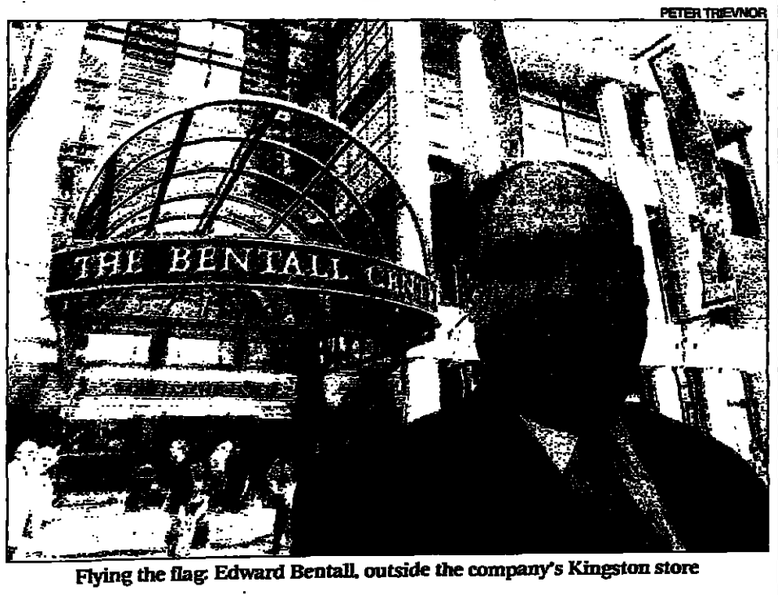
Investors should contact the Public Information Office at SIB on 071 638 1240.

Neither LWI nor Mr Lloyd-Wright is authorised under the Financial Services Act to conduct investment business in the UK. At one stage, the Limassol operation was said to have more than 2,000 clients and Mr Lloyd-Wright hired a plane to do his work.

It is not his first business to run into trouble. The Lloyd Wright School Fees Service, based in Guernsey, was struck off the register of Guernsey companies last year. Joanna Carvell, his former wife, was jailed for two years for misappropriating £152,000. The court was told that Mr Lloyd-Wright was "basking in the Cyprus sun leaving this woman to deal with a trail of distress and dishonesty he has left behind".

Bentalls drops into the red

PETER TREVNOR



Flying the flag: Edward Bentall, outside the company's Kingston store

FATHER Christmas was not in a generous mood this year for Bentalls, owner of seven department stores in the South East (Martin Waller writes). "The only thing that pushed Christmas ahead for us was Sunday trading," Grenville Peacock, chief executive, said.

The company, which has its eponymous flagship store in Kingston upon Thames, fell into a pre-tax loss of £986,000 in the year to end-January. This was a turnround from profits of £1.43 million last time, not aided by depreciation charges totalling £1.79 million largely because of the redevelopment of the Kingston site. Shareholders will share the pain. A final dividend of 1.3p means a total cut from 3.85p to 1.90p.

Mr Peacock said conditions for retailers were now more favourable than a year ago, and sales this year are beginning to show some volume growth. But last year had been hit by a further collapse of consumer confidence after Britain's exit from the ERM in September.

Edward Bentall, the chairman, said: "Like most other retailers, we suffered a poor Christmas."

City works towards new trade exchange

BY COLIN NARBROUGH
WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

A NOVEL trade exchange is being urgently planned in the City to link the undeveloped markets of the former Soviet bloc with London and the rest of the world.

The Baltic Exchange, which has just returned to its old premises, devastated by an IRA bomb last year, is playing a key role in the scheme, which has the working name of the Exchange for Central and Eastern Europe. The favoured location for the new exchange is 199 Broadgate, next to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Sir Francis McWilliams, the Lord Mayor of London, in a speech last night at a Guildhall banquet for the diplomatic corps, disclosed that discussions were taking place. Sir Francis has been urging City institutions to make an early effort to attract business from the emerging economies of central and eastern Europe to London.

City interests working on the scheme see a market vacuum in the former Soviet bloc, with few British traders and businessmen establishing the personal connections their continental and American rivals are making.

Sir Francis sees the new exchange as part of the wider efforts the City is making to foster free-market principles and as part of increasing international integration. He said he regarded European economic and monetary union, with an eventual single currency, as the "logical conclusion" of the single European market.

Sir Francis said London remained unique in Europe and was probably the top international financial centre in the world. Michael Cassidy, the City corporation's policy chief, said Rosehaugh Stanhope Developments had offered to make 199 Broadgate available for the new "mercantile market" rent-free for two to three years. About 100,000 sq ft of office space is available. As the initial idea foresees attracting representative offices from the states emerging from the Soviet bloc, the occupants would not need to pay rates either.

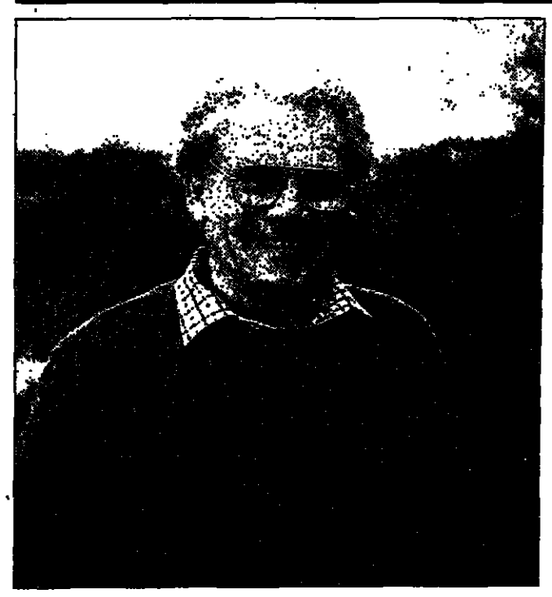
Mr Cassidy said the scheme would bring a new type of tenant to a City awash with empty offices and create an important meeting place to facilitate all manner of trading that might otherwise be difficult, if not impossible.

The basic concept forsees trading via satellite link on markets in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, plus off-exchange trading in raw materials, industrial and consumer goods, which currently form the bulk of business in the region.

The exchange would provide database facilities on commercial and industrial corporations, legal, economic and market developments, as well as consultancy services, conference and seminar areas.

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Littlewoods is the top private firm again

Littlewoods has regained its crown as Britain's biggest privately-owned company after a couple of months in the number two slot. Figures for 1992 from Littlewoods show annual turnover of £2.71 billion, up 4.6 per cent.

In January John Swire & Sons, the transport group, announced sales of £2.6 billion, pushing it temporarily into the number one position ahead of the reported 1991 figure from Littlewoods.

An £11.1 million swing on interest payments helped hold pre-tax profits from Littlewoods at £97 million. Retail sales were up by 1.3 per cent to £1.90 billion and group borrowings were cut from *£50.8 million to just £6.1* million. The home shopping division saw profits decrease by 0.2 per cent to £55.9 million, while chain stores profits fell 7.6 per cent to £28.0 million. Pools business profits rose by £1.7 million to £21.6 million.

Gulf war cost

Arab nations lost $676 billion as a result of the Gulf war, equivalent to 18 months' loss of their total gross national product, according to the Arab Monetary Fund's annual report. Iraq sustained economic losses of $237 billion while Kuwait lost $240 billion, *more than tentimes its* GNP for the last pre-crisis year. The report said the rest of the Arab world lost about $91 billion from a sharp drop in economic growth.

Negative return

Property investment returns have been negative for three *years running, says Invest*ment Property Databank's annual review. The research firm said that 10 per cent of office buildings owned by institutions were now over-rented. Falling rents has meant funds have little scope for rental growth in their portfolios.

Bank advances

Allied Irish Banks' US subsidiary, First Maryland Bancorp, boosted earnings by 42.4 per cent in the first quarter of 1993. Earnings jumped to $28.5 million dollars (£18.5 million) compared with $20 million dollars in the same period last year.

STOCK MARKET

US drug shares return to favour to help UK firms

DRUG shares appear to be back in vogue on the other side of the Atlantic after a prolonged period of decline. This change in sentiment might also signal better times ahead for Britain's drug companies, which have also been labouring under a welter of problems, including President Clinton's radical proposals for US healthcare, which it is feared will force drug companies to cut their prices.

American buying lifted **Glaxo**, which has underperformed the market for some time. At one stage, the price *touched 600p before settling* 19p higher at 599p. There were also gains for takeover favourite **Fisons**, 3p to 165p, and **Medeva** 5p to 216p, while **Wellcome** jumped 30p to 764p in response to plans announced earlier this week for various drug companies to pool their research in Aids. **SmithKline Beecham** was another firm market, adding 24p to 468p after Tuesday's first-quarter figures.

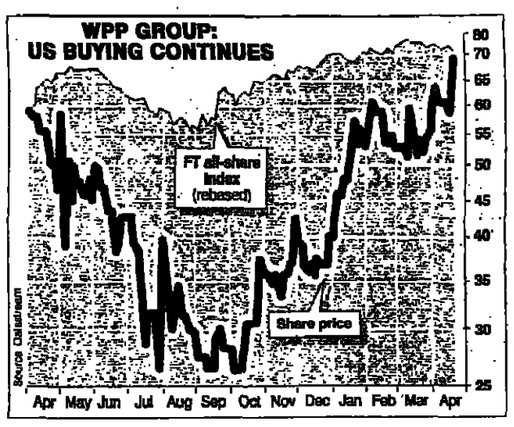
Dealers claim the change of heart has been fuelled by suggestions on Wall Street that President Clinton may not force drug companies to cut their prices. Instead, he may restrict future price rises to *levels of inflation.*

The rest of the equity market enjoyed further selective support with prices squeezed higher by stock shortages. But the FT-SE 100 index failed to hold on to its best gains, ending 13.5 up at 2,869.6, having been 19 points higher earlier in the session.

Prices were marked better first thing, with sentiment boosted by reports from the futures market that a bid for one of the top 100 companies would emerge later today.

TSB Group was mentioned, with the speculators again talking about a bid from **Lloyds Bank**. But with the TSB price ending the session only *2p better at 189p, it* seems that not everyone is taking the story seriously. This was in spite of heavy activity in TSB on the traded options market during the past few days. Lloyds ended 3p cheaper at 535p.

Abbey National fell 5p to 390p. On Tuesday, it cheered



the market with the announcement that mortgage activity was sharply higher. This boosted the building sector. Rises were recorded in **Barratt Developments**, 8p to 143p, **Berkeley Group**, 11p to 413p, **Henry Boot**, 4p to 281p, **Bryant Group**, 4p to 140p, **Countryside Properties**, 5p to 130p, **Crest Nicholson**, 3p to 59p, **M J Gleeson**, 5p to 758p, **John Laing**, 17p to 269p, **John Maunders**, 5p to 135p, **John Mowlem**, 4p to 104p, **Persimmon**, 10p to 272p, **Raine**, 7p to 100p, **Tay Homes**, 2p to 173p, **Taylor Woodrow**, 10p to 113p, **Westbury**, *7p to 139p*, and **George Wimpey**, 11p to 169p.

ICI climbed 33p to £12.28 after the group confirmed it was on target to achieve the proposed demerger of Zeneca, its biosciences operation, in June. ICI also confirmed in the pathfinder prospectus that trading in 1993 had started on a firm note. Pharmaceuticals were ahead and sales of its new drugs were expected to show significant growth in the long term. The forward order book for agrochemicals was also encouraging.

Laporte, which recently acquired Evode, the adhesives group, advanced 6p to 638p. Roger Bexon, the chairman, told shareholders that 1993 had started steadily and that the second half would be stronger than the first. The group had already achieved significant cost savings from the Evode acquisition.

Meggitt, the engineer, hardened ½p to 101p after **BTR** decided to dispose of its 17.2 per cent holding. Smith New Court, Meggitt's broker, acquired the 37 million shares as part of a bought deal and placed them with various institutions at 98p each. BTR, which acquired the stake when Meggitt bought Bestobell in 1986, *held steady at 617p. But the disposal lifted* al buying. It has taken a party of brokers on a tour of its American operations and appears to be making a favourable impression. The shares started the week at 299p.

Thames Television, which lost its independent television franchise last year to Carlton, *fell 5p to 174p after deciding* not to pay a dividend. This was in spite of a recovery in pre-tax profits last year from £8.2 million to £44.4 million. The figures included an extraordinary charge of £93.4 million relating to restructuring costs and the disposal of Thames Television Inc. Talks regarding a possible offer for the company by **Pearson** are continuing. Pearson finished 3p firmer at 415p.

Amber Day, the retailer, climbed 3p to 77p after returning to the black at the halfway stage with pre-tax profits of £4.45 million against a loss last time of £6.29 million. The figures included an exceptional charge of £1.1 million to cover compensation paid to Philip Green, the former chairman. The dividend was held at 1.1p.

Williams Holdings, the industrial conglomerate, gained 15p to 336p on talk of a buy recommendation from James Capel, *the stockbroker. But* **RTZ**, the mining finance group, lost 22p at 636p amid *claims that Warburg Securities* had turned bearish of the shares.

Delta Group firmed 2p to 487p on the back of encouraging remarks about trading prospects at the annual meeting. Geoffrey Wilson, the chairman, told shareholders that the group was seeing renewed signs of patchy recovery in Europe. But he gave a warning it was too early to draw firm conclusions.

Hammerson, the property developer, continued to reel from the decision to cut the dividend after a drop in profits. The A shares fell 12p to 289p with the ordinary 15p cheaper at 316p. NatWest Securities, the stockbroker, says the appointment of a new management team will dispel bid talk but the below-average dividend yield and disappointing growth prospects are unlikely to support the shares. It *gives a warning that a rights* issue may be on the way and would be better received with the new management in place.

MICHAEL CLARK

Telemetrix goes from strength to strength, having jumped 12p to a high of 150p. GTI, the American electronics group in which it has a 61 per cent stake, has published first-quarter figures showing a 79 per cent rise in earnings. Some brokers are saying that 200p is the next stop for the price.

Lucas Industries another 2p to 134p with bid speculation revived. Talk in the market has suggested for some time that BTR will eventually launch a bid for Lucas.

Harmony, the USM-quoted hotel and restaurant chain, eased ¼p to 7¼p on learning that the debt-laden Queens Moat hotel group had sold its 14.5 per cent stake in the company to **Southend Property Holdings**. Southend, 2p easier at 68p, paid 5p each for the 3.88 million shares. It takes Southend's holding in Harmony to 18.6 per cent.

Bowthorpe, the electronics group, rose 8p to 317p on evidence of revived institution-

WORLD MARKETS

Nikkei falls for fourth day in a row

Tokyo — Japanese shares closed lower for the fourth consecutive day on concerns that the yen's sharp rise will be an obstacle to economic recovery. Futures-linked buying lifted prices off their lows but the market still ended weaker, brokers said.

Hajime Nakajima, at Cosmo Securities, said: "The market's recent advance was driven by individual investors using margin trade and brokerage dealers. They are swift when the time comes to take profit." The Nikkei average was down 55.42 points, or 0.28 per cent, to 19,773.01.

A sharp drop in Nippon Telegraph and Telephone and related shares — the leading advancing shares in the recent bull market — dampened sentiment, brokers said.

Early setback for Dow

New York — Wall Street shares were mixed in morning trade and dealers said they did not expect a major swing to the downside. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 8.11 at 3,435.38 points, while advancing shares led declining shares eight to seven.

George Pirrone, senior trader at Dreyfus Corporation, said: "Earnings are mostly good but there is a disaster every day."

☐ **Hong Kong** — The Hang Seng index ended up 129.85 points, or 1.96 per cent, at 6,768.39, its high for the day. The surge was sparked by comments from Lu Ping, China's top official on Hong Kong affairs, that success in today's discussions on Hong Kong's political reforms would make the index soar.

☐ **Frankfurt** — The Dax index, which fell 20.24 points to a 1,666.87 close, was seen moving in a 1,650 to 1,700 near-term range. *(Reuter)*

RECENT ISSUES

Anglo Utd Wts	½	...
Brown (D) (170)	215	−2
D Lloyd Leisure (150)	173	...
Fleming Emerging Mkts	103½	+ ½
Frgn & Col US Smlr Co	102	...
Frgn & Col US Smlr Wts	41	...
Hambros Ins Serve (138)	142	−3
Holliday Chemical (195)	214	+4
Pilot Invstmnt Tst (100)	97½	...
Pilot Invstmnt Wts	27	...
Quality Software Prods	484	+6
Westminster Healthcare	294	+6
Yorkshire Food (110)	135	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Atlas Cnvrtg Equip n/p	115	...
Bemrose n/p (265)	67	+3
Bilston & Bursea n/p (20)	9	...
Channel Hldgs n/p (23)	1½	...
EIS n/p (340)	23	...
Harris (P) n/p (200)	11	−1
Ingham n/p (100)	12	...
Mayflower Corp. n/p (36)	9	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Berkeley Group	413p (+11p)
J Laing	269p (+17p)
Smithkline	468p (+24p)
Smiths Ind	347p (+17p)
Wellcome	764p (+30p)
Lloyds Abbey	433p (+10p)
Presidio	110p (+30p)
Helical Bar	186p (+16p)
Lamont	320p (+11p)
Yorkdyde	383p (+28p)
Rothmans 'B'	639p (+10p)
P&O	565p (+10p)
Bellway	410p (+11p)

FALLS:

SA Breweries	763p (-22p)
Hammerson	316p (-15p)
MEPC	370p (-11p)
S Lyles	89p (-11p)
BAT	880p (-15p)
Eurotunnel Uts	420p (-14p)

Closing Prices Page 31

WALL STREET

	Apr 21 midday	Apr 20 close
AMP Inc	59⅞	59⅞
AMR Corp	70	69⅞
Abbott Labs	27⅞	26⅞
Aetna Life	51⅛	51⅛
Ahmanson (H F)	16	18
Air Prod & Chem	42⅞	42⅝
Albertson's	55⅝	54⅛
Alcan Aluminum	18⅛	18⅛
Alco Standard	43⅝	43⅛
Allied Signal	68	67⅝
Alum Co of Am	65	64⅞
Amax	16⅝	16⅛
Amerada Hess	54⅛	53⅛
Amer Brands	31⅛	31⅛
Amer Cyanamid	51⅞	52⅛
Amer El Power	37⅞	37⅝
Amer Express	28⅜	28⅛
Amer Genl Corp	31⅛	30⅞
Amer Home Pr	67	67⅝
Amer Intl	128⅛	128⅛
Amer Stores	40⅞	40⅛
Amer T & T	57⅛	57⅛
Ameritech	79⅝	79⅛
Amoco	57⅝	57⅝
Anheuser-Busch	50⅛	50⅝
Apple Computer	50⅛	50
Archer Daniels	24⅛	24⅛
Ardra	9⅛	9⅛
Armco	7	7
Armstrng Wrld	35⅛	35⅛
Asarco	20⅛	20⅛
Ashland Oil	26½	26⅝
Atl Richfield	125⅛	125
Auto Data Pro	48⅛	48⅛
Avery Dennison	30⅛	30⅛
Avon Products	57⅛	57⅛
Baker Hughes	25⅝	26⅛
Baltim Gas & El	25⅛	25⅛
Banc One	57⅛	57⅛
BankAmerica	49⅝	50⅛
Bank of NY	56⅛	57⅛
Bankers Tr NY	75⅛	75⅛
Barnett Banks	45⅛	45⅝
Bausch & Lomb	49⅛	49⅛
Baxter Intl	29⅛	29⅝
Bectn Dickson	34⅛	34⅝
Bell Atlantic	54⅛	54⅞
BellSouth	56⅛	56⅛
Black & Decker	17⅛	17⅛
Block (H&R)	34⅜	35⅛
Boeing	37⅛	36⅞
Boise Cascade	25⅝	25⅛
Borden Inc	25⅝	25⅛
Bristol Myrs Sq	60⅞	62
Browning Ferris	27	27
Burlington Nthn	57⅞	55⅛
CBS	241⅛	242
CNA Financial	99	99⅛
CPC Intl	62⅛	62⅝
CSX	75	75⅝
Campbell Soup	38⅛	38⅝
Can Pacific	16⅛	16⅛
Cpti Cities ABC	545⅞	546
Cpnl Holdings	81⅛	81⅛
Carolina Pwr	33⅛	33⅝
Caterpillar	61⅞	61⅛
Central & SW	33⅞	33⅞
Champion Intl	39⅛	39⅝
Chase Manhat	33⅞	33⅝
Chemical Bk	40⅛	40⅛
Chevron Corp	63⅞	63⅞
Chrysler	39⅛	40⅛
Chubb Corp	69⅝	69⅞
Cigna Corp	62⅝	63⅞
Cincorp	28⅛	28⅛
Cinrox	48⅛	47⅝
Coastal Corp	27⅛	27⅛
Coca Cola	38⅛	38⅞
Colgate-Palmolive	98⅞	98⅞
Columbia Gas	22⅛	22⅝
Commonw Ed	29⅜	29⅝
Compaq Comp	50⅛	50⅞
Comp Ass Int	52⅛	52⅛
Conagra	24⅛	25
Cons Edison	35⅞	36
Cons Nat Gas	49⅛	49⅝
Cons Rail	57⅛	58⅛
Cooper Indx	48⅛	48⅝
Corning Inc	34⅛	34⅛
Crown Cork	38⅛	38⅛
Dana Corp	49⅛	49⅛
Dayton Hudson	75⅛	74
Deere	55⅛	56⅛
Delta Air Lines	59⅝	56⅞
Deluxe Corp	46⅛	47
Detroit Edison	25⅝	25⅝
Digital Equip	44⅛	43
Dillard Dept St	38⅛	38⅛
Disney (Wlt)	41⅞	41⅞
Dominion Res	44⅛	44⅞
Donelley (RR)	28⅛	28⅛
Dover Corp	48⅝	48⅞
Dow Chemicals	82⅞	82⅝
Dow Jones	34⅛	31⅞
Dresser	21⅛	21⅛
Duke Power	40⅛	40⅛
Dun & Bradstreet	60⅛	60⅛
Du Pont	51⅛	52⅛
Eastman Kodak	55	54⅛
Eaton Corp	90	91

	Apr 21 midday	Apr 20 close
Emerson Elec	58⅛	59⅛
Engelhard Corp	26⅛	25⅞
Enron Corp	57⅛	58⅜
Entergy Corp	36⅛	36⅛
Ethyl Corp	28⅛	29⅛
Exxon	67	66⅞
FMC Corp	45⅝	45⅞
FPL Group	37⅛	37⅛
Federal Express	51⅞	52
Fed Nat Mtge	80⅛	80⅛
First Chicago	40⅞	41⅛
First Interstate	57⅛	57⅛
First Union Rby	12	12
Fleet Fncl Grp	33⅛	33⅛
Fluor Corp	42⅝	43
Ford Motor	52⅛	53⅛
GTE Corp	36⅛	36⅛
Gannett	52	52⅛
Gap Inc Del	28	28⅝
Gen Cinema	35⅞	35⅞
Gen Dynamics	97⅛	96⅝
Gen Electric	94	94⅛
Gen Mills	65⅛	65⅛
Gen Motors	38⅝	39⅛
Gen Reinsurance	120⅛	121⅛
Gen Signal	62⅝	62⅛
Genuine Parts	35	34⅝
Georgia Pac	68⅛	68
Gillette	49⅝	49⅛
Glaxo ADR	18⅛	18⅛
Goodrich (BF)	47⅞	47⅞
Goodyear Tire	74⅛	74⅛
Grace (WR)	39⅞	40⅛
Grt Atl Pac Tea	28⅛	28⅝
Great Wstn Fin	17	17⅛
Halliburton	39⅛	39⅛
Hedrz (SD)	35⅝	36⅛
Hercules	75⅛	75⅝
Hershey Foods	51⅛	51⅛
Hewlett Packard	74⅛	73⅞
Hilton Hotels	40⅛	41⅛
Home Depot	41⅛	40⅝
Homestake	13⅜	14⅛
Honeywell	32⅛	33⅛
Household Intl	71⅛	71⅛
Houston Inds	47⅛	47⅞
Humana	8	7⅞
ITT Corp	81⅛	82⅝
Illinois Tool	74⅝	74⅝
INCO	23	23⅛
Ingersoll Rand	31	30⅝
Inland Steel	23⅛	22⅝
Intel Corp	102⅛	101
IBM	49⅝	50⅛
Intl Flav & Fr	111⅛	112⅛
Intl Paper	66⅛	66⅛
James River Va	19⅛	19⅛
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	42⅝	42⅝
K Mart	22⅛	22⅛
Kellogg	58	57⅞
Kerr-McGee	48⅝	48⅛
Kimberly-Clark	47⅞	47⅞
Knight-Ridder	57⅛	57⅛
Lilly (Eli)	48	47⅞
Limited Inc	23⅛	23⅛
Lin Broadcstg	81⅛	82
Lincoln Nat	80⅛	82⅛
Litton	58⅝	59
Llc Claiborne	35	35
Lockheed Corp	63⅝	63⅞
Louisiana Pac	75⅞	75⅛
MCI Commun	46⅛	45⅞
Marriott	28⅝	28⅝
Marsh & McLnn	93⅛	94⅛
Martin Marietta	74⅛	74⅝
Masco Corp	31⅛	32⅛
May Dept St	71⅛	70⅛
Maytag Corp	13⅝	13⅞
McCaw Cellular	36	35⅞
McDonalds	47⅛	47
McDonnell D	62⅜	60⅛
McGraw Hill	62⅛	62⅛
Mead Corp	45⅛	45⅛
Medtronic	63	64⅛
Mellon Bk	50⅛	50⅛
Melville Corp	43⅞	44⅛
Merck Inc	36⅞	37⅛
Merrill Lynch	73⅞	73⅛
Minnesota Mine	113⅛	113
Mobil Corp	68⅞	69⅛
Monsanto	54⅛	54⅛
Morgan (JP)	70⅝	72
Motorola Inc	72⅛	72⅛
Nat Medical	8⅛	8
Nat Semic	13	13⅛
Nat Service Ind	24⅛	25⅛
Navistar Int	2⅛	2⅛
NBD Bancorp	34⅛	34⅛
NY Times A	30⅛	29⅞
Newmont Mng	42	42⅛
Nlag Mohawk	22⅛	22⅛
Nike B	72⅛	72
NL Industries	9⅛	9⅛
Nordstrom	29	30
Norfolk Sthrn	64⅛	65⅛
Nthn State Pwr	45⅞	46
Norwest Corp	50⅛	51⅛
Nynex Corp	87⅞	88⅛
Occidental Pet	21⅛	22⅛
Ohio Edison	24⅛	25⅛

	Apr 21 midday	Apr 20 close
Oracle Systems	33⅛	33⅛
Oryx Energy Co	23⅝	24⅛
PNC Financial	33⅛	34⅛
PPG Industries	73	73⅛
Paccar Inc	65⅛	64⅛
Pacificorp	17⅛	18
Pac Enterprises	24⅛	24⅝
Pac Gas & Elec	33⅛	34
Pac Telesis	49	48⅞
Pall Corp	20	20⅛
Panhandle East	22⅜	22⅝
Paramnt Comm	51⅛	52⅝
Parker Hannifin	30	29⅞
Penney (JC)	82⅝	81⅛
Pennzoil	61⅛	60⅞
Pepsico	36⅛	36⅝
Pfizer	65⅝	65⅞
Phelps Dodge	44⅛	43
Philadel Elec	30⅛	30⅛
Philip Morris	48⅛	49⅛
Phillips Pet	29⅝	30⅛
Pitney Bowes	41⅛	40⅞
Polaroid	32⅛	29
Price Co	29⅛	28⅝
Primerica	45⅞	46
Procter & Gmbl	47⅛	47⅞
Pub Serv E & G	33⅛	34⅛
Quaker Oats	43⅛	43⅝
Ralston Purina	47⅞	47⅞
Raychem Corp	40⅞	40⅞
Raytheon	58⅛	58⅞
Reebok Intl	34⅛	34⅛
Reynolds Metals	45⅝	45⅝
Roadway Svcs	60⅞	60⅛
Rockwell Intl	33⅛	33⅞
Rohm & Haas	61	60⅞
Royal Dutch	99⅛	99⅞
Rubbermaid	32	32⅛
Safeco Corp	63⅛	63⅛
St Paul's Cos	60⅛	60⅞
Salomon Inc	37⅜	37⅞
Santa Fe S Pac	15	15
Sara Lee Corp	25	25
Scecorp	48⅛	48⅛
Schering Plough	64⅛	65⅝
Schlumberger	63⅞	64
Scott Paper	34⅛	35
Seagram	27⅛	28⅛
Sears Roebuck	54⅛	53⅞
Shell Trans	54⅛	54⅛
Sherwin Wllms	33	33
Skyline Corp	30⅛	30⅞
Snap-On-Tools	34⅛	33⅝
Southern Co	43⅞	44
Sthwestern Bell	80	80⅛
Sprint Corp	31⅛	31⅛
Stanley Works	46⅛	47⅛
Sun Company	23⅛	23⅝
Sunstrnd	45⅝	46⅛
Supervalu	31⅛	31⅛
Synovs Corp	19⅛	19⅝
Sysco Corp	23⅛	22⅞
TRW Inc	65⅛	67⅛
Tandem Comp	11⅝	11⅝
Tandy Corp	29⅝	28⅝
Telecom Corp	2⅛	2⅛
Teledyne	20⅛	20
Temple Inland	44⅛	44⅝
Tenneco	47	47⅛
Texaco	63⅛	63
Texas Instl	55	54⅛
Texas Utilities	45⅝	46⅞
Textron	47⅛	48⅛
Time Warner	33⅜	33⅞
Times-Mirror	31⅛	31⅛
Timken	29⅞	29⅞
Torchmark	58⅛	58⅛
Toys R Us	37⅛	38⅛
Transamerica	51⅛	52⅛
Travelers Corp	39⅛	39⅛
Tribune	55⅞	56⅛
Tyco Labs	42⅛	44
UAL Corp	148	140
USF Inc	28⅛	28⅛
USX Marathon	18⅝	18⅞
Unilever NV	116⅛	117⅛
Union Camp	45⅞	46
Union Carbide	18⅛	18⅝
Union Pacific	63⅝	63⅝
Unisys Corp	12⅛	12⅝
USAIR Group	23⅞	22⅞
USF&G Corp	18⅛	19⅛
US Life	38	37⅞
US West	44⅛	44⅛
United Tech	69⅛	69
Unocal Corp	30⅛	30⅞
Upjohn	30	30⅜
VF Corp	48⅛	48
Wal-Mart Stores	26⅛	25⅞
Warner-Lambert	73	74
Waste Mgmnt Inc	32⅛	31⅛
Wells Fargo	113⅛	113⅛
Westinghouse El	15⅞	15⅞
Weyerhaeuser	45⅞	45⅞
Whirlpool	54⅛	54⅛
Whitman	13⅛	13
Winn Dixie	55⅞	55⅞
Woolworth	30⅛	29⅞
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	30⅛	30⅞
Xerox	79⅛	79⅛

BRITISH FUNDS

GOVERNMENT securities lost an early lead to finish lower on the day in quiet trading along with other European bond markets.

Trading conditions were thin with investors reluctant to open fresh positions as they *continued to absorb the im*pact of £3 billion of Treasury 7¼ per cent 1998 auction. Much of the activity focused on dealings in the "when issued" price of the new stock, which ended in its partly paid form at £50³¹/₃₂.

Trading on the futures market was also low key. The June *series of the long gilt fell six* ticks to £105⁷/₁₆ as only 25,000 contracts were completed. On the cash market, prices were marked lower across the board. At the short end, Exchequer 9¾ per cent 1998 eased three ticks to £110⁹/₃₂, while in longs, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 was six ticks lower at £105³/₈.

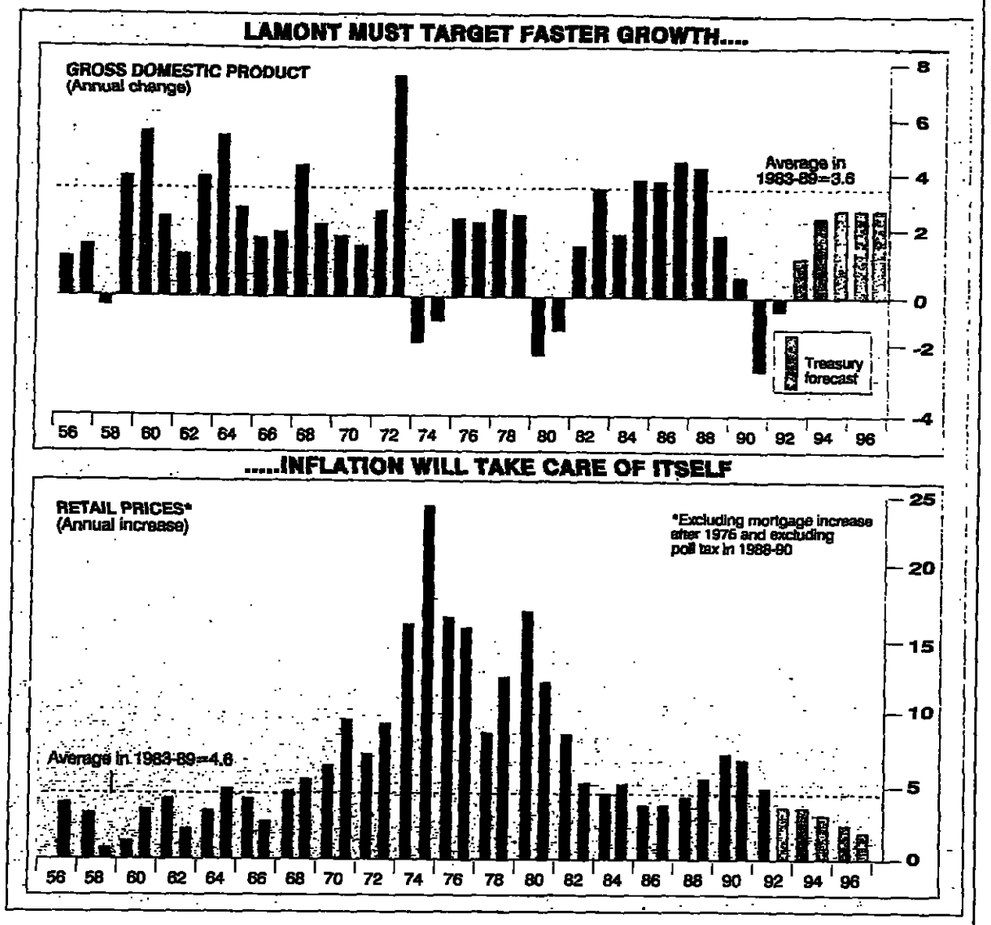
1993 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
103⅝	101¹⁵/₃₂	Treas 12½% 1993	101¹⁵/₃₂	...	12.31	5.71
100⅛	99²⁵/₃₂	Fund 6% 1993	100⅛	...	6.00	5.74
109⅛	104⅛	Treas 13¾% 1993	104⅛ †	...	13.16	5.87
102⅝	101¹⁵/₃₂	Treas 8½% 1994	101¹⁵/₃₂	...	8.34	5.88
109⅛	105⅛	Treas 14½% 1994	107¹⁵/₃₂	...	13.55	5.98
109⅜	107⅜	Exch 13¾% 1994	107¹⁵/₃₂ †	...	12.58	5.99
105²⁵/₃₂	104⅛	Treas 10% 1994	104⅛	...	9.60	6.08
110⅞	107²⁵/₃₂	Exch 12½% 1994	108	...	11.57	6.18
105¹⁵/₃₂	103²⁵/₃₂	Treas 9% 1994	104 †	...	8.65	6.27
111¹⁵/₃₂	109⅛	Treas 12¾ 1995	109¹⁵/₃₂	+ ⅛	10.99	6.41
96⅛	94	Gas 3% 1990-95	95¹⁵/₃₂ †	− ⅛	3.12	5.86
109⅞	107⅛	Exch 10½% 1995	107⅝	+ ⅛	9.81	6.49
116⅞	114⅝	Treas 13¼% 1995	114²⁵/₃₂ †	+ ⅛	11.15	6.60
120⅛	117⅜	Treas 14% 1996	118	+ ⅛	11.86	6.73
125⅞	122⅛	Treas 15½% 1996	122²⁵/₃₂	+ ⅛	12.42	6.84
120⅜	116⅝	Exch 13⅜ 1996	117⅛ †	+ ⅛	11.28	6.85
111⅛	109	Conv 10% 1996	109⅛ †	+ ⅛	9.10	6.84
122⅜	119⅛	Treas 13½% 1997	120⅝	+ ⅜	11.03	7.07
113⅛	110⅝	Exch 10¾% 1997	111⅝	+ ⅛	9.40	6.98
108⅛	105⅛	Treas 8¾% 1997	106⅛	+ ⅛	8.21	6.95
132⅛	128⅝	Exch 15% 1997	129⅛ †	+ ⅛	11.58	7.23
112⅛	109⅛	Exch 9¾% 1998	110⅛	+ ⅛	8.83	7.15
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
103⅞	99⅝	Treas 7¾% 1998	101¼	...	7.16	6.96
101	97⅛	Treas 6½% 1998-98	99⅛ †	− ⅛	6.78	6.86
138⅝	134⅛	Treas 15½% 1998	135⅝	− ⅛	11.64	7.43
122⅛	118⅝	Exch 12¾% 1998	119⅝	− ⅛	10.01	7.56
112⅝	108⅝	Treas 9½% 1999	109⅝	− ⅛	8.65	7.38
124⅝	120⅞	Exch 12¼% 1999	121⅝	− ⅛	10.06	7.62
117¼	113⅞	Treas 10½% 1999	114²⁵/₃₂	...	9.16	7.48
117⅛	112⅝	Conv 10½% 1999	114⅛ †	− ⅛	8.99	7.52
110⅝	106	Conv 9% 2000	108⅛	− ⅛	8.33	7.46
131	125⅛	Treas 13% 2000	129⅛	− ⅛	10.17	7.87
115⅛	109⅝	Treas 10% 2001	112⅝	− ⅛	8.88	7.80
129⅛	125⅞	Treas 14% 1998-01	126²⁵/₃₂	+ ⅛	11.05	7.58
114⅝	108⅛	Treas 9½% 2002	111⅛	− ⅛	8.72	7.94
103⅝	97⅝	Treas 8% 2003	100⅝	− ⅛	7.93	7.85
116⅛	109⅝	Treas 10% 2003	113⅝	− ⅛	8.81	8.04
122⅝	116⅛	Treas 11¾% 2001-04	119²⁵/₃₂	− ⅛	9.61	8.07
74⅝	67⅝	Fund 3½% 1999-04	71⅛	− ⅛	4.92	7.30
112⅛	105⅝	Conv 9½% 2004	109⅝ †	− ⅛	8.64	8.14
112²⁵/₃₂	105⅝	Conv 9½% 2005	109⅝	− ⅛	8.64	8.17
131⅛	124⅝	Treas 12¼% 2003-05	128²⁵/₃₂	− ⅛	9.73	8.39
101⅛	94⅝	Treas 8% 2002-06	99⅛	+ ⅛	8.04	8.10
125²⁵/₃₂	118²⁵/₃₂	Treas 11¼% 2003-07	122²⁵/₃₂	− ⅛	9.59	8.33
104⅛	97⅛	Treas 8½% 2007	102⅛	− ⅛	8.33	8.25
139⅛	131⅛	Treas 13¼% 2004-08	136⅛	− ⅛	9.92	8.38
LONGS (over 15 years)						
108²⁵/₃₂	101⅛	Treas 9% 2008	106⅛ †	− ⅛	8.48	8.28
99⅝	92⅝	Treas 8% 2009	97⅝	− ⅛	8.21	8.23
108⅛	100⅛	Conv 9% 2011	105⅛	− ⅛	8.54	8.41
108⅛	100⅝	Treas 9% 2012	105⅝	+ ⅛	8.54	8.42
76²⁵/₃₂	70⅛	Treas 5½% 2008-12	74²⁵/₃₂	...	7.35	8.09
97⅝	89⅛	Treas 7¼% 2012-15	94⅛	− ⅛	8.24	8.34
135²⁵/₃₂	125²⁵/₃₂	Exch 12% 2013-17	132⅛	+ ⅛	9.08	8.62
105²⁵/₃₂	97⅛	Treas 8¼% 2017	102⅛	+ ⅛		

ECONOMIC VIEW

Lamont climbs aboard for another white knuckle ride

The pound may have strengthened but its rollercoaster trip on the foreign exchanges is not over, says

Anatole Kaletsky



Sterling is riding for a fall, and when the pound drops into the next valley of the financial big dipper, Norman Lamont had better be prepared for a rough ride. Needless to say, the Chancellor is the last to recognise the danger he now faces by tying his reputation to the exchange rate again. "I welcome strongly the recent strength of the pound," he declared in Luxembourg on Monday, unconsciously betraying by the verbal repetition how weak his position really is.

Sterling has now crept back to just below DM2.50 and $1.55, the levels at which it temporarily stabilised a month after White Wednesday, and from which it plunged again in late January. The pound's rebound has been little noticed by the British public, but it has earned tidy profits for the many speculators who shorted sterling last autumn and then reversed their positions in the winter, when a temporary bounceback above $1.50 was a virtual certainty, as I wrote on February 4. The strengthening of the pound has also been noticed, with varying degrees of concern, by the small group of corporate managers and long-term investors in British industry who understand economics. Meanwhile, the cleverest of the medium-term currency speculators and analysts have taken their profits and become bearish to neutral on sterling again.

The signs of economic growth in Britain have been stronger than predicted — even by extreme optimists such as myself, who firmly expected recovery the moment Britain pulled out of the ERM. But these bullish indications have now been thoroughly discounted by the markets, which have pushed sterling up by 8 per cent against the dollar and by 6 per cent against the mark since the mid-February lows. With so much enthusiasm already reflected in market prices, press comment and surveys of business opinion, the next statistical surprise is likely to be on the downside.

Conceivably, such a surprise could come today, with the publication of the March unemployment figures, though I expect the labour market to continue to do better than expected. As explained in this column on December 7, many British managements deliberately exaggerated their redundancy announcements last autumn in response to pressures from accountants and stock market analysts. With that process now largely over, the monthly rate of job losses should continue to decline and unemployment could well stabilise by the second half of this year. A more likely cause of statistical shocks could be a dip in retail sales or a temporary setback in housing, prompted perhaps by the loss of consumer confidence after the Budget.

Beyond that, the markets could be hit by the first set of the new comprehensive trade figures, which the Central Statistical Office expects to release in late June or early July. Nobody can predict which particular indicator might trigger a fall in sterling, but the chances of a disappointment some time in the next few months are high. By the early autumn the risk of a statistical disappointment will run into the seasonal financial instability that often seems to erupt as investors return from holiday and make strategic reassessments.

But what if the economic recovery continued to be more robust than expected? This is less likely than it was a few weeks ago, not because the economy has deteriorated, but because the City has already revised its growth forecasts sharply upwards. A Reuters survey published yesterday showed that most City economists now expect growth of 1½ to 1¾ per cent this year, against the official 1¼ per cent Budget forecast. Forecasts for 1994 are creeping up towards 3 per cent, compared with the 2½ per cent in the Budget red book. In fact, the present ratings of cyclical and consumer shares in the London stock market could probably not be justified unless growth accelerated to between 3 and 3½ per cent from next year onwards — and any big disappointments in the stock market would provoke sharp falls in sterling.

This sharp change in psychology is something the government cannot afford to ignore. The Chancellor might personally feel quite satisfied if he simply managed to hit the very modest growth forecasts set out in the Budget — forecasts that would mean no recovery at all from the recession, only a miserable convalescence. But the financial markets are already becoming more ambitious. And as green shoots multiply, the electorate, too, will become more demanding.

For the first time in his career, Mr Lamont is about to be judged not against his own meagre promises and achievements, but by a far more demanding standard: the legitimate economic expectations of the British people, the business community and the financial markets. The public is gradually going to realise that the economic targets the Chancellor has set himself are simply not good enough. As the chart shows, the average growth rate of 2¾ per cent projected by the Treasury from 1994 onwards, is far below the 3.6 per cent achieved from 1983 to 1988.

The Treasury argues that the last recovery was too strong, as evidenced by the outbreak of inflation. In fact inflation continued to fall throughout the first four years of recovery from 1982 to 1986, when growth averaged 3.4 per cent. It was only after Nigel Lawson's excesses in 1987 and 1988 that inflation accelerated.

At present the Treasury's plan is probably to repeat Lord Lawson's blunders, keeping the economy on a tight rein for the next few years, even more than Lord Lawson did in the early 1980s, and then triggering a pre-election boom around 1996. Economically this would be insane, since the inflationary impact of expansionary policies in 1996, in the middle of an economic cycle, would be far greater than today. Economic competence has never been the Treasury's strong point, but fortunately there is a new constraint this time round.

Since White Wednesday, the financial markets have begun to sense that strong growth is financially necessary and politically inevitable in Britain during the mid-1990s. If the economy starts to recover convincingly, investors will calculate that growth of 3 per cent plus will produce exploding trade deficits at anything like the present exchange rate; the balance between these fears and the hopes of a strong recovery will produce a steady but gradual decline in the pound. But suppose the hopes of rapid growth are not realised, or that Mr Lamont tries to curb the economy, either to avoid alleged "overheating" or to leave scope for a pre-election boomlet.

The Chancellor will then face rapid retribution, not only from public opinion, about which he seems to care little, but also from the foreign exchanges, with which he fortunately still seems obsessed. Mr Lamont may disregard the voters, the business community, and the unemployed, but by his own lights he cannot afford to disappoint the markets.

TEMPUS

Zeneca zeitgeist

STOCK market sentiment may have turned back in favour of the pharmaceutical sector just in time to give ICI a relatively easy ride in the demerger of Zeneca. The positive trading statement from the pharmaceutical and agrochemical group, combined with Smith-Kline's strong first quarter results on Tuesday, were the main factor's behind yesterday's 3.5 per cent rise in ICI's share price to 1236p. It has once again dawned on institutions that few other industries offer such long-term organic growth prospects.

Despite the recovery in the share price, the recent volatility in the pharmaceutical sector is likely to prompt SG Warburg, ICI's adviser, to play safe and hold a two-for-seven rights issue at about 635p to raise the requisite £1.3 billion. If conditions worsen between now and May 12, there is always a fall-back position of a one-for-three at 545p.

Zeneca will be hoping that such a fall-back is not used, since it does not want its dividend commitment to become more onerous than it already is. A one-for-three rights would create 34 million extra shares, and cost an additional £9 million a year in dividends.

In any case, Zeneca will start life with a historic dividend cover of less than two, one of the lowest in its sector. The company promises to increase cover to match the sector average of about three times, but this is unlikely to happen for three years at least, even if the initial 27.5p payout remains pegged.

The cash needed for research and development, which cost £457 million last year, will also rise if Zeneca is to fulfil its promise of launching one new drug a year, given the cost of clinical trials. Operating under these competing pressures, it is indeed fortunate that Zeneca has such a promising portfolio of young drugs like Zestril and Diprivan to contribute future growth.

Thames TV

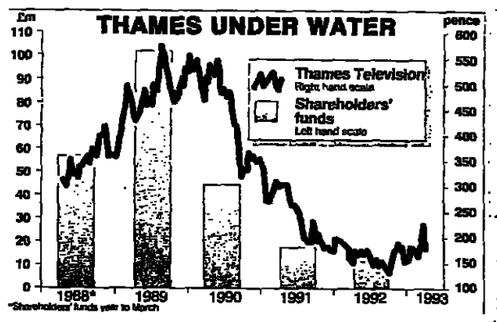
THAMES Television may be at the cutting edge of British television production, but its accounting methods are decidedly blunt.

Only three weeks ago, it warned of losses resulting from provisions of between £35 and £42 million. The reality is worse than the theory — an extraordinary charge of £93.4 million has produced an after-tax loss of £67.5 million.

Over half of the charge related to goodwill from Reeves Entertainment, now earmarked for disposal. That was anticipated, but under FRS3 rules, obligatory from June, such a charge would have to be included as an exceptional item. Most other companies are wisely already conforming to the new standard.

As a result, the group produced an attractive pre-tax profit of £44 million in the final year of its franchise, which is unlikely to be repeated. Profits are expected to fall to about £10 million this year, and further growth in the production industry will be difficult.

Minority shareholders are understandably waiting for Thorn EMI to sell its controlling stake, either to Pearson or to a continental operator, triggering a full bid. The current share price of 174p fairly reflects the group's earnings potential but may fail to reflect the value of the intellectual copyright of the programme library and production schedule. As a result, there is still room for upside when a bid emerges.



Amber Day

SINCE the departure of the voluble Philip Green, Amber Day has been something of an unknown quantity. The interim figures suggest that after a period of mismanagement, where talk counted for more than action, retailing discipline has been restored.

David Thompson, finance director and acting chief executive, has identified the many operational weaknesses in the business that his predecessor failed to notice. Discounts on slow-moving stock have enabled the group to release space for the better selling lines; shrinkage has been reduced, although it is still above the industry average; and distribution has been contracted out. If he continues at this rate, he could find himself appointed permanent chief executive.

The current retail environment is ripe for an efficient clothing discount chain as demonstrated by the 9 per cent like-for-like increase in sales of the group's "What Everyone Wants". Discount fever has already infected the food sector and is likely to spread to other retailers.

Some of this is already reflected in the share price which has risen from a low of 24p last August to 76p yesterday, but with a prospective p/e ratio under 15 times — still a discount to the sector — there may still be value left.

Smiths Industries

ROGER Hurn believes that earnings per share are the acid test of management. But he did not hang his head yesterday when his Smiths Industries reported a 10 per cent slide in interim earnings to 9.2p a share.

The time will come when his vision is realised, but only when poor aerospace markets become more active. Until then, the medical systems divisions and the acquisition-assisted industrial division are helping Smiths remain in better financial health than most. The group's strong cash flow has left it with net cash and the ability to increase the dividend.

Cost-cutting should boost earnings from 1994. Until then, the £5 million in net cash gives scope for takeovers, more likely in the medical field than aerospace, and the market's faith was demonstrated by yesterday's 5 per cent jump in the share price. Investors should remain faithful to Smiths, which, on current-year profit hopes of £110 million pre-tax, trade on 15 times earnings.

Acquisition accounting

HARRISONS & Crosfield's annual report shows that British companies' penchant for acquisition accounting flourishes despite the Accounting Standards Board's determination to eradicate it.

Harrisons has set up a £33.7 million provision to cover the cost of reorganising BOCM Silcock, the animal feeds business it bought from Unilever last summer for £67 million. The provisions are needed to merge BOCM with Pauls, its existing feed business, closing ten mills in the process.

The group utilised £25.5 million of its provisions last year, equivalent to 30 per cent of pre-tax profits. Shareholders may be concerned about the prospects for earnings when the ASB's reforms force Harrisons to take future reorganisation costs against profits.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Brought to book

A NEW business blockbuster hits booksellers today, written under the pen-name of Jeremy Miles. The book, *Mind The Gap*, bears a curious resemblance to an episode in the City in 1988. Not surprisingly, those with an interest in the tale are curious about the author's true identity. Miles is Jeremy Simpson, former chairman of Gordon Russell, the office supplies group. In Simpson's work of fiction, a British company is taken over by a foreign predator. Gordon Russell was bought after an acrimonious takeover battle with Steelcase Strafor, a French-American conglomerate. As the fictional takeover battle rages, the managing director has an affair with a model. Sadly for Simpson, this part of the book is *not* based on real life. But one scene stands out: when the managing director is entertained by the predators in a nightclub, a scantily-clad dancer revolves a live python around her neck. In the excitement, the python relieves itself, spraying the entire takeover team. Names may have been changed to protect the innocent, but this passage is unmistakably *livre verité*.

Experimental post

BODY Shop is seeking a head of investor relations. Presumably, the creation of the new PR post will not come as too much of a surprise to Gavin Grant, who was poached from the Unit Trust Association recently to become head of communications. A headhunter's advertisement for the new job specifies a candidate familiar with City and press practice and experienced in "distilling business information" and "determining appropriate mechanisms to present it lucidly to diverse audiences". In this case, distilling must refer to vaporising and recondensing, as it is hard to imagine anyone paying a PR £60,000 plus benefits to rid their information of superfluous matter. But talk of "appropriate mechanisms" raises some suspicion that Body Shop's commitment to avoiding experiments on animals does not extend to the PR species.

Duty calls

THE latest "bouquet column" in *BT Today*, British Telecom's staff newspaper, leads with a stirring tale of "personal sacrifice" and positive attitude, recording a tribute from Burton Group to the enthusiasm of Brian Moore, a BT on-site engineer in Leeds. Dave Evans, of Burton, wrote to BT: "I must mention one occasion when, during the installation of a number of urgent lines, Brian stayed into the evening to complete a job — even though this caused a disruption to personal arrangements he had made." Well beyond the call of duty — well, at least it used to be.



Govett defectors

HOARE Govett's two-man German research team has decamped for SG Warburg. Rob Willis and Rod Hinkel will start at Warburg next month. Their move leaves Andreas Wahl, the German sales specialist, on a limb. But it is good news for Warburg, which six months ago lost Tim Plaut, a German analyst, to Goldman Sachs.

Allied to Dunbar

IS IT fearful symmetry that has put so much of financial regulation into the hands of the founding fathers of Allied Dunbar? In the mid-eighties, when the Financial Services Act was being hammered out, the man chairing the influential Marketing of Investments Board organising committee was Sir (then Mr) Mark Weinberg, the Allied Dunbar founder. Now that the trade department is bent on easing financial regulation, its choice as task force chairman is Weinberg's co-founder, Sir (then Mr) Sydney Lipworth. Sir Sydney has chaired the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for the past five years, so there can be no suggestion of restrictive practices here. But, at the consumer end, there is also an Allied Dunbar influence. Joel Joffe, another long-serving executive, yet to be knighted, has voiced criticism of insurance selling methods since leaving the group last year. One-stop shopping all round.

Starring role

FEW companies can boast star billing on the stock exchange, let alone in Hollywood. But Croda International's research into novel derivatives of vegetable oils enabled it to produce the oily cure for adreoleukodystrophy (ALD) a degenerative children's disease upon which *Lorenzo's Oil*, the film, is based. Croda's annual report says: "Inspiration for the technical development of the oil was Augusto Odone, father of Lorenzo, who suffers from this terrible disease... Our research chemist, Don Suddaby, who succeeded in synthesising the oil, appears as himself [in the film]." Frankie Odone, Lorenzo's brother, who works as a bond salesman at Bear Stearns, can also take some credit for the film, which stars Susan Sarandon and Nick Nolte. Croda is now looking forward to another blockbuster: patent applications have been made for some new applications of natural oil supplements to combat multiple sclerosis.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

BUSINESS LETTERS

Steel price increases and the small manufacturer

From Mr T. F. Barnes

Sir, What business in today's market place can increase its prices by over 40 per cent?

The European steel industry.

Our company is not an untypical engineering company supplying fabricated and machined products to a variety of markets, from defence through to leisure. We have survived the recession to date by prudent management and a shift in emphasis to exports and new products. We employ 50 people.

All this could be in vain now that the steel industry is implementing a 40 per cent plus increase in its prices.

Our markets are extremely fragile, no "green shoots" here, and our major customers refuse to accept any price increases. So we are faced with a huge totally unrealistic increase, which because of our purchasing power, 5 tonnes per month, we can do little to resist and our large customers refuse to accept.

We have made enquiries of non-European Community countries to see if we can purchase two or three months supply.

Consistently, we are told that they cannot supply or must be careful on price because the EC mills may cause problems for them.

So much for a free market and competition.

This increase, reasons for which range from huge demand from China, capacity reduction etc, is nothing more than the deliberations of a price cartel from European bullies taking absolutely no notice of the realities of the European market. Almost certainly, prices paid by China will be extremely low and we are being asked to support the steel mill margins.

Apart from being inflationary it hits the medium to small user, the bedrock of the UK manufacturing industry.

Are we to support China at the expense of the UK?

Yours faithfully,
T. F. BARNES
(Managing Director),
B. Dixon-Bate Ltd,
Unit 45,
1st Avenue,
Deeside Industrial Park,
Deeside,
Clwyd.

Purchaser and the supplier

From Mr Neill Irwin

Sir, In all the excitement about the head-hunting of José Lopéz to VW from General Motors (March 30) it would be easy to overlook the real advantages to be gained from a close, long-term relationship between purchaser and supplier. While I am not in a position to comment on the savings reaped by Señor Lopéz when he took control of the purchasing function at General Motors Europe, there is a danger that all the attention will be focused solely on the price cuts, which any determined negotiator should be able to obtain from his suppliers in times of recession.

The greatest benefits long-term come from the buyer and supplier working together as a team to improve the total cost of purchasing — which will take into account factors such as quality control, delivery times, invoicing procedures and the overall quality of the final product as well as price. Partnership of this kind is not a cosy relationship but one based on mutual respect and a sharing of information and financial benefits. However, if the rewards all flow one way and the supplier is squeezed "until the pips squeak" he may silently vow to find an alternative customer as soon as possible so that the purchaser no longer benefits from what they have learnt together.

Yours sincerely,
NEILL IRWIN
(Director),
Partnership Sourcing,
Confederation of British Industry,
Centre Point,
103 New Oxford Street,
WC1.

Human touch lacking

From Mr Gordon Clarkson

Sir, I have read, for the third time, Sarah Bagnall's article on global warming (April 5) and its effect on the insurance industry. I was searching for some mention of the danger to human life, in the light of the quoted evidence of the increasing threat of disaster, but the article was devoted entirely to the problems for insurance companies. Presumably, this is acceptable for Business News, but I cannot help feeling that the omission of the human element is another indication — like the worldwide conflicts, terrorist atrocities, murders, etc, reported daily in your paper — that human life is becoming even more expendable.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON CLARKSON,
79 Mintfields Road,
Beverley, North Humberside.

Cost of electricity to consumer and the pool

From Mr Michael G. Hell

Sir, Contrary to what your industrial correspondent writes (April 14) the "pool" is not a "spot market", or indeed any sort of market that a buyer would recognise; but pool prices determine what consumers pay for electricity.

The pool first balances supply and demand, and then fixes the settlement price for pool transactions. This settlement price is based on the highest price bid accepted from any generating unit for any half hour. It is rather as if motor manufacturers were to charge out all cars at the price of the most expensive sold by any one of them in any day.

Thus pool price guarantees the generators a minimum income. This is the level they will wish to achieve through their "contracts for differences" with the distributors, who will pass it on in any contracts offered to the consumers. The success of the electricity companies in making these calculations is evidenced by their burgeoning profits, legally made regardless of any signals from their customers. That very little power is traded at pool prices is irrelevant.

Privatisation has given us, not a market or competition, but a regime of price escalation, which will damage and possibly destroy our electricity-intensive industries. Increasing prices appears to be the government's chosen way of reducing CO_2 emissions: we should perhaps question whether the cost of this indiscriminate approach is not too high.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HELL,
159 Russell Road,
Moseley, Birmingham.

THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 22 1993

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-do- Inc	343.90	365.90†	+ 0.50	3.67
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Smlr Cos Acc	85.63	91.56	+ 0.50	1.33
-do- Inc	79.19	84.70	+ 0.59	1.35
Amer Gth Acc	56.87	60.82	- 0.11	...
-do- Inc	55.91	59.69	- 0.11	...
Euro Gth Acc	97.61	104.39	- 0.83	1.07
-do- Inc	96.25	102.92	- 0.82	1.07
Mngd P folio	34.08	36.44†	+ 0.02	1.46
Pacific Growth	94.53	101.10	- 0.58	0.58
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0444 458144

Financial	120.00	127.80	+ 0.40	3.28
Smaller Cos Acc	277.00	296.40	+ 2.50	...
Smaller Cos Inc	161.10	172.30†	+ 1.30	1.26
High Inc	70.00	75.25†	+ 0.34	6.96
Income	162.60	173.30†	+ 0.82	4.13
Mngd P folio Inc	91.79	97.75	+ 0.26	2.03
-do- Acc	173.50	184.70	+ 0.50	...
North American	98.48	105.90	- 0.20	0.21
Orient	115.30	124.40	- 0.50	...
Recovery	77.16	82.95	+ 0.15	1.80
German	42.07	45.12	- 0.21	0.09
Intl Growth	32.39	34.50	+ 0.13	0.23
European Inc	22.22	23.92	- 0.14	0.47

BUCKMASTER MANAGEMENT
Beaufort House, 15 St Botolph Street, London EC3A 7JJ. 071 247 4542
Dealing: 071 247 7474

Fellowship Tst	61.67	65.97	- 0.28	1.17
-do- Acc	69.74	74.20	- 0.32	1.17
Income Fund 5	210.00	223.50	+ 0.70	4.03
-do- Acc	488.80	520.10†	+ 1.60	4.03
Inv Portfolio	66.89	69.11	+ 0.39	2.06
-do- Acc	73.30	78.04	+ 0.44	2.06
Smaller Cos	122.30	130.20	+ 0.70	1.91
-do- Acc	147.00	156.40	+ 0.90	1.91
High Inc P folio	59.95	62.13	+ 0.31	4.72

BURRAGE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
117 Fenchurch St, London EC3M 5AL
071 480 7216

Shr Gilt Fxd Int	65.80	66.69†	+ 0.12	6.03

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
PO Box 105, Manchester M60 0AH
061 837 5060

Environ	133.40	142.00	+ 0.80	1.73
UK Growth	145.70	155.00	+ 1.40	2.06
UK Income	121.70	129.40†	+ 1.00	4.32

CANNON FUND MANAGERS
1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx. HA9 0NB
081 902 8876

SE Asia	81.86	87.55†	+ 1.78	1.06
Growth	44.08	47.14	+ 0.23	3.03
Income	52.64	56.60	+ 0.32	4.30
Far East	46.18	49.39†	+ 0.34	0.16
North American	36.03	81.75†	+ 0.31	0.01
Global	79.75	85.30†	+ 0.50	0.78
European	68.33	73.08†	- 0.27	1.71
Japan	105.40	112.70	- 0.60	0.01
Intl Currency Bd	57.68	61.14†	+ 0.18	5.24
UK Cap Gwth	77.84	83.25†	+ 1.64	2.17

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
35 Fenwick Street, Manchester M2 2AF
Enquiries: 061 236 5685
Dealing: 061 236 5362
Capability Trusts

American Gen	123.60	131.50†	+ 0.40	0.15
-do- Acc	131.40	139.80	+ 0.50	0.15
European	68.35	69.26	- 0.51	1.05
-do- Acc	69.75	71.79	- 0.53	1.05
Far East Gen	61.04	64.94†	- 0.18	...
-do- Acc	61.04	64.94	- 0.18	...
Glenalbyn	209.60	254.90†	- 1.10	0.96
-do- Acc	260.70	287.00	- 1.10	0.96
Growth	323.10	344.10	+ 1.30	2.65
Income Growth	370.80	394.50	- 0.70	4.07
-do- Acc	493.00	524.50	- 1.00	4.07
Master Portfolio	9302.0	9827.0†	+43.00	2.75
-do- Acc	10795.0	11141.0	+20.00	2.75
Special Sits	85.56	91.03	+ 1.04	2.54
-do- Acc	103.15	109.53	+ 1.25	2.54
Exempt Fund				
High Yield	1208.0	1243.0	+ 7.00	4.49
-do- Acc	1395.0	1439.0	+ 8.00	4.49

CAPEL (JAMES) UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
7 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4HU
071 655 5858. Dealing: 071 955 5055

American Index	188.70	197.80	+ 0.60	1.67
Capital	522.00	562.40†	+ 3.50	2.37
Eurotrack 100	127.00	135.10	- 0.50	1.53
Euro Gth	78.89	84.01	- 0.30	1.39
Far East Growth	87.53	93.41	+ 1.42	0.14
Global Bond	23.20	24.44	+ 0.07	6.12
Hong Kong	74.02	78.99†	+ 1.80	0.57
Income	495.50	528.80†	+ 2.50	3.91
Intl Growth	72.16	77.01	+ 0.22	0.99
Japan Growth	251.50	268.40	+ 1.40	...
Japan Smllr Cos	31.60	33.72	+ 0.12	...
Japan Index	73.07	77.98	- 0.61	0.25
Nth American	407.70	435.10†	+ 3.00	0.99
S pore Mly Gth	49.42	52.74	+ 0.16	...
The Pookie Fd	107.40	113.40	+ 0.80	2.99
Tiger Index	133.40	142.30	+ 1.70	0.70
Trinde Index	102.30	109.10	+ 0.90	2.63
UK Index	122.40	130.60	+ 1.00	2.98

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
3 Cornhill Avenue, London EC2R 7BH
071 606 0700

American P folio	81.35	86.86	+ 0.17	1.40
European P folio	71.43	76.02†	+ 0.03	1.38
Japanese P folio	65.06	64.66†	- 0.16	...
Pacific P folio	94.82	101.96	- 0.88	2.43
Cazenove P folio	69.37	74.20	+ 0.29	3.00
UK Income Gth	61.71	66.18†	+ 0.18	5.00
Utility & Bond	49.98	50.60	+ 0.06	7.00

CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND
2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ
071 588 1815

Investment Fd	605.20	612.50	...	4.72
Fixed Int	155.75	156.30	...	9.28
Deposit	5.70	...	...	...

CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND
2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ
071 588 1815

Income	580.99	597.49	...	5.00
-do- Acc	2331.6	2397.6	...	...
Deposit	5.85	...	...	...
Fxd Int Inc	127.00	127.01	...	9.13
-do- Acc	187.75	167.79	...	...

CITY FINANCIAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge, SE1
071 487 5966

City Fin Assets	61.72	64.97†	...	2.32
Beckman Intl	81.12	85.62†	+ 0.48	3.10
Friars Hse Inc	177.62	190.90	...	6.10
Friars Hse Cap	246.36	264.90	...	2.75

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MANAGERS
Exchange Court, 3 Bedford Park, Croydon CR0 2AQ. Enquiries: 081 681 2222
Dealing: 081 686 9818

Japan Gth Acc	39.92	42.47	- 0.01	...
Managed	61.45	65.37	- 0.11	2.74
-do- Acc	74.21	78.95	- 0.13	2.74
Smaller Cos	33.01	35.12	- 0.52	1.94
UK General	68.06	72.40	- 0.38	2.47
UK Special	81.60	86.81	+ 0.46	2.42
Wwide Bd	62.38	66.35†	+ 0.22	6.08
-do- Acc	80.24	85.32	+ 0.29	6.08
Wwide Sp Sits	55.08	58.91	- 0.14	0.18
-do- Acc	57.28	61.37	- 0.15	0.18
Quilter General	120.06	127.72†	+ 1.03	2.44
-do- Acc	133.40	141.91	+ 1.15	2.44
Quilter Income	92.88	98.81†	+ 0.49	3.82
-do- Acc	114.48	121.79	+ 0.61	3.82
Quilter Intl	...	...	...	...
-do- Acc	...	...	...	...
Quilter UK Spec	69.14	73.55	+ 0.68	1.84
-do- Acc	91.48	97.30	+ 0.90	1.84
CU Prestige Fund Management				
Deposit	91.68	91.68†	+ 0.01	5.50
-do- Acc	91.68	91.68†	+ 0.01	5.50
Fin Property	105.73	112.48	- 0.20	1.42
Fixed Cstny	41.05	43.69	- 0.12	7.34
-do- Acc	107.29	114.14	- 0.31	7.34
Equity Inc	144.30	153.51	- 0.88	3.46
-do- Acc	463.20	492.77	+ 2.85	3.46
High Yield	117.87	125.39	+ 0.48	4.61
-do- Acc	445.10	473.51	+ 1.81	4.61
Preference	46.99	49.99†	- 0.03	7.36
PFT Europe	240.78	256.15	- 0.15	7.36
PFT Europe	148.85	158.35†	- 1.47	0.94
PFT Mthly Inc Plus	47.34	50.36†	...	7.98
PFT Global Inc	87.88	86.92†	- 0.26	5.75
PFT Gold Cons	50.82	54.06†	+ 0.06	...
PFT Oriental Gth	56.04	59.62†	+ 1.32	0.50
PFT Far East Gth	102.89	109.46†	+ 0.97	0.26
PFT Japan	111.59	118.71†	+ 1.03	...
PFT N Amer	144.96	154.22†	+ 0.27	0.08
PFT UK Gth	115.24	122.60	+ 3.72	1.89

EAGLE STAR UNIT MANAGERS
Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ
0242 517 555

Oriental Op Acc	76.25	81.12	+ 1.00	0.98
Japanese Acc	58.30	62.02	+ 0.18	...
UK Balncd Inc	125.40	133.40	+ 1.10	2.52
-do- Acc	146.40	155.70	+ 1.30	2.52
UK Growth Acc	205.70	218.80	+ 1.70	2.21
UK High Inc	133.90	142.40	+ 1.10	3.62
-do- Acc	159.10	168.30	+ 1.30	3.62
N America Acc	107.10	113.90	...	0.34
European Acc	151.60	161.30	- 0.90	0.43
UK Pref Fd Inc	60.13	63.80	+ 0.03	8.86
-do- Acc	97.06	103.00	+ 0.10	8.86
Ind Sp Sits Acc	90.29	99.24	- 0.15	0.23
Environmnal Opp	71.31	75.86†	- 0.51	1.46

EDINBURGH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
Deanhaven House, 97 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5HD. 031 313 1000

American	108.10	114.90	- 0.40	...
UK Smlr Cos	188.30	200.10	-11.60	1.25
Eurofund	37.17	39.36	- 0.30	1.02
Mngd Exempt	163.40	170.30†	+ 1.58	3.98
Growth Inc	210.40	223.60	+ 1.10	4.03
High Dist	137.80	146.40	- 0.80	5.91
International	315.60	335.30	+ 1.50	0.97
Intl Income	79.40	84.78†	+ 0.24	3.07
Pacific	36.40	39.93	- 0.36	0.50
Smllr Jap Cos	64.31	68.33	- 0.04	...
Tokyo	191.00	202.90	- 1.00	...
Japan Exempt	108.40	111.30	- 2.20	0.45
Sm Jap Exempt	532.40	547.00	+15.50	0.09

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD
Oakhill House, 130 Tonbridge Rd, Tonbridge TN11 9DZ. 0800 414181

Cash Unit Tst	100.00	100.00	...	5.40
European Tst	114.60	122.10	+ 0.10	...
High Income	24.73	26.02†	+ 0.04	5.77

FOREIGN & COLONIAL
5th Floor, Exchange Hse, Primrose St, London EC2A 2NY. 071 628 8000

European	91.38	96.74	+ 0.59	0.89
Far Eastern	131.00	140.10	+ 0.50	...
Dmstc Income	87.10	93.39	...	2.82
UK Growth	91.56	97.93	+ 0.63	1.33
UK Income	101.30	108.30	+ 1.00	3.84
US Smaller Cos	251.50	267.60	+ 0.80	...

FRAMLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT
155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3FT
071 374 4100

Am Smllr Cos	395.90	423.30	+ 1.90	...
-do- Acc	404.50	432.50	+ 2.00	...
Capital	281.00	298.90	+ 1.40	1.94
-do- Acc	391.70	416.70	+ 1.90	1.94
Conti Smllr Cos	47.15	50.71	- 0.14	0.96
-do- Acc	48.79	52.47	- 0.14	0.96
Convertible	110.30	117.20	+ 0.60	6.65
-do- Acc	204.10	217.10	+ 1.10	6.65
Dividend	191.40	202.40	+ 1.00	4.99
-do- Acc	99.07	105.40	+ 0.50	4.96
Extra Income	285.90	304.10	+ 0.70	4.09
-do- Acc	400.30	425.80	+ 0.90	4.09
Financial	102.30	110.10†	...	0.67
-do- Acc	107.40	115.40†	...	0.67
Health Fund Inc	102.40	109.40	+ 2.00	...
-do- Acc	102.40	109.40	+ 2.00	...
Income Tst	175.10	186.30	+ 0.60	3.89
-do- Acc	296.80	315.70	+ 0.90	3.89
Intl Growth	296.80	317.00	+ 1.80	...
-do- Acc	329.60	352.00	+ 2.00	...
Japan Gen	165.00	176.40	...	...
-do- Acc	166.70	178.20	...	...
Mngd P folio Inc	88.31	92.95	+ 0.25	1.64
-do- Acc	92.57	97.44	+ 0.27	1.64
Monthly Income	145.30	154.50	+ 0.50	4.30
Recovery	278.90	298.20	+ 1.00	0.77
-do- Acc	326.80	349.20	+ 1.10	0.73
Gilt Gth Tst	60.35	62.23	+ 0.18	6.48
-do- Acc	77.94	80.37	+ 0.24	6.48

FRIENDS PROVIDENT MANAGERS
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts. SP1 3SH
Dealing: 0722 411411
Administration: 0722 411622

Equity Dist	346.94	369.08	+ 3.17	2.84
-do- Acc	700.50	745.21	+ 6.40	2.84
Euro Gth Dist	104.46	111.13	- 0.61	0.84
-do- Acc	107.58	114.45	- 0.63	0.84
Fixed Int Dist	129.91	137.10†	+ 0.06	6.38
-do- Acc	217.75	230.39	- 0.09	6.38
Intl Gth Dist	74.72	79.49	- 0.03	0.81
-do- Acc	77.30	82.23	- 0.03	0.81
Nth Amer Dist	161.57	171.17	- 0.47	0.86
-do- Acc	175.25	185.68	- 0.52	0.86
Pac Basin Dist	233.50	248.40	- 0.91	0.29
-do- Acc	237.18	252.32	- 0.92	0.29
Stewardship Dist	298.32	314.06	+ 1.77	1.92
-do- Acc	349.22	371.52	+ 2.08	1.92
Sterl Inc Dist	61.90	65.85	+ 0.28	3.52
-do- Acc	75.85	80.69	+ 0.36	3.52
N Am Stwd Dist	92.34	98.23	+ 0.32	...
-do- Acc	97.68	103.91	+ 0.34	...

GT UNIT MANAGERS
8th Floor, 5 Devonshire Sq, London EC2M 4YJ. 071 220 4567. Dealing: 071 626 9431

Am Sp Sits	13.18	14.00	- 0.01	0.96
European	393.30	417.90†	- 1.80	1.02
Far East General	212.90	227.70	+ 1.60	0.51
Germany	97.81	103.50	- 1.10	0.44
Global Assets In	66.89	70.40	+ 0.05	2.30
Global Assets Ac	69.04	72.70	+ 0.05	2.30
Income Inc	114.90	122.90	+ 0.60	7.15
International	255.10	272.60	- 0.50	1.02
Intl Income	77.10	81.96	+ 0.10	4.86
Japan General	346.80	372.30	- 1.30	...
Smllr Cos Div	43.71	46.89	- 0.30	6.21
UK Capital Inc	157.40	168.40	+ 1.70	3.96
-do- Acc	369.30	388.10	+ 3.00	3.89
Uk Spec Sits	71.45	76.42	+ 0.08	1.67
US General	109.80	117.00	- 0.60	0.11
W wide Spec Sits	111.80	119.60	- 0.10	0.11

GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS
Gartmore House, 16/18 Monument Street, London EC3R 8AJ. 071 623 1212
Dealings: 0277 264421. Services: 0800 289 336

UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	43.87	46.71	+ 0.54	1.65
Cash Trust*	128.20	128.20†	+ 0.01	4.87
Pract Inv Inc	100.50	107.77†	+ 0.18	3.96
Pract Inv Acc	215.76	231.38†	+ 0.43	3.96
UK Smaller Cos	97.88	104.97	+ 0.62	1.31
Income Funds				
Preference Share	24.75	26.47†	- 0.34	8.01
High Inc	31.12	33.28	+ 0.06	5.02
UK Equity Inc	122.40	130.52†	+ 0.35	3.90
Global Bond	29.15	30.20†	+ 0.17	5.73
International Funds				
Gold Intl	69.13	74.13	+ 1.36	1.32
Frontier Markets	40.20	43.11†	+ 0.99	0.42
Global Inc Gth	116.55	124.32†	+ 2.96	2.21
UK Intl	110.60	118.29	+ 0.18	0.55
Overseas Funds				
American	123.90	132.07	+ 0.50	0.49
European	80.12	84.96	- 0.46	0.68
Euro Sel Opps	92.15	98.18	- 0.69	0.85
American Emerg	74.66	80.06	+ 0.58	...
Hong Kong	107.28	115.05	+ 2.40	2.02
Japan	207.10	220.32	+ 0.17	...
Pacific Growth	146.82	157.45	+ 3.14	0.44

GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MANAGEMENT
Shackleton House, 4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HP. 071 378 7979
Dealing: 071 588 8526

Intl Growth	131.52	139.97	- 0.68	0.37
American Gth	113.07	120.93	- 1.66	...
European Gth	66.90	71.55	- 0.52	0.42
German Horizn	...	...	...	...
Japan Gth	73.70	78.82	- 0.26	...
Pacific Inc	134.38	143.61	+ 2.39	2.85
Pacific Strategy	111.45	119.17	+ 1.13	0.25
UK Prop Inc	74.400	79.400	+ 0.57	4.81
Gt British Cos	48.47	51.07	+ 0.34	2.70
UK Small Cos	43.41	46.43	- 0.91	2.12

GRE UNIT MANAGERS
56 Harbour Exchange Sq, London E14 9GE
071 538 9666

Cash	130.80	130.80†	+ 0.10	5.34
Gilt Fixed	118.90	126.30	- 0.10	6.53
Growth Equity	285.70	305.20	+ 3.00	2.08
Guardhill	419.40	448.00	+ 3.00	2.35
Income Trust	168.80	116.20	+ 0.90	3.57
International	152.30	162.70†	...	0.36
Japan Trust	118.20	126.00	- 0.30	...
Nth American	243.80	260.40†	- 0.90	0.47
Pacific	363.50	388.30†	+ 4.80	...
European	336.40	359.40	- 1.70	0.57

HALIFAX STANDARD TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
PO Box 480, Edinburgh EH15 1EW
0800 838868

Global Adv Inc	34.45	36.52	+ 0.10	1.84
-do- Acc	36.06	38.23	+ 0.20	1.84
Inc Adv Inc	28.19	30.08†	+ 0.20	4.20
-do- Acc	30.34	32.17	+ 0.20	4.20

HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
Enquiries: 0277 227300
Dealing: 0277 690395

Canadian	71.39	76.37	+ 0.39	0.96
Equity Income	112.50	119.70	+ 0.30	3.54
European	130.70	138.40†	- 0.40	0.87
Intl Situation	72.94	77.60	+ 0.07	...
Japanese	137.30	145.70	+ 0.20	...
North American	98.19	101.60	+ 0.10	0.06
Scandinavian	105.50	111.80	- 0.30	0.46
Smaller Cos	28.60	30.43	...	2.30

HENDERSON
PO Box 2157, Kings House, 101-135 Kings Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4LT
Enq: 0277 263290 Dealing: 0277 234772

Amer Smaller	84.36	90.21†	+ 0.11	...
Asian Enterprise	121.47	131.20	+ 1.76	0.98
Australian	132.77	141.92†	+ 0.09	1.54
Emerging	350.98	381.10†	+ 3.12	1.13
European Inc	68.74	72.71	- 0.34	3.45
Euro Smll Co	120.28	128.57	- 0.29	1.14
Extra Income	284.19	298.60†	+ 0.95	5.03
Financial Trust	66.10	72.20	+ 0.09	0.83
Fixed Interest	54.96	58.77†	+ 0.03	8.85
Global Recover	89.05	95.57	+ 0.87	1.18
High Inc	278.06	297.24†	+ 1.68	4.78
Income Gth	236.20	249.51	+ 0.94	4.30
-do- Acc	589.59	622.90	+ 2.20	4.08
International	222.02	236.58†	+ 0.19	1.00
Japan Spc Sit	220.94	235.00	- 0.68	...
Japan	191.29	203.34	+ 0.65	...
Pacific	212.50	222.40	+ 1.09	0.17
Pacific Smllr Cos	171.49	184.89†	+ 2.73	0.61
Pref Gilt	44.91	48.81†	- 0.76	8.78
Smaller Cos Div	157.37	171.41	+ 0.35	4.82
Special Sits	251.86	268.20	+ 3.00	0.56
-do- Acc	388.08	415.34	+ 3.46	2.17
Best of British	54.84	58.76	+ 0.33	2.69
Spirit of the East	57.09	61.08†	+ 0.34	0.51

HILL SAMUEL UT MANAGERS
NLA Tower Addiscombe Road, Croydon
081 686 4355

British	97.28	98.34	- 0.18	2.33
Capital	154.20	164.90	+ 1.80	1.99
Dollar	204.60	215.00	- 0.20	0.07
European	191.30	204.50	- 1.20	0.58
Far East	224.40	240.00	- 0.70	0.52
Financial	644.40	710.20†	+ 4.40	0.08
Gilt Fxd Int Inc	25.34	26.32	+ 0.02	8.11
High Yield	98.74	105.60	+ 0.60	4.78
Income	133.70	142.90	+ 0.70	3.70
Intl	207.40	221.80	- 0.70	0.57
Japan Tech	64.20	70.80	- 0.43	...
Nat Resources	55.26	59.10	+ 0.43	0.73
Security	291.50	311.70†	+ 2.10	2.16
Smaller Cos	105.20	112.50†	+ 1.60	1.55
Special Sits	135.85	143.10†	+ 0.80	1.98
US Smaller Cos	57.23	61.20	...	...

IBI FUND MANAGERS
36 Queen St, London, EC4R 1BN
071 489 8673

Brit O seas	240.30	252.90	+ 1.50	1.44
Capital Gwth	99.34	104.60	...	2.53
Inv Trusts	124.30	130.80	...	0.72

Further selective support

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 19. Dealings end May 7. §Contango day May 10. Settlement day May 17. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check *this against the* daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Sedgwick	Insurance	
2	Hanson Johnson	Building Rds	
3	Jerome (S)	Textiles	
4	Mercier-Sw	Electrical	
5	NFC	Transport	
6	BOC	Industrial	
7	Loraine	Mining	
8	Medeva	Industrial	
9	Portsmth Sund	Newspaper Pub	
10	Polypipe	Industrial	
11	UniChem	Industrial	
12	WPP	Paper Print	
13	Lex Service	Motors Air	
14	Glynwed	Industrial	
15	Southwal	Mining	
16	Seton Health	Industrial	
17	IMI	Industrial	
18	Harries	Mining	
19	Spring Ram	Industrial	
20	Logica	Electrical	
21	Claremont Ga	Textiles	
22	Utd Newspapr	Newspapr.Pub	
23	Barclays	Banks, Disc	
24	Whessoe	Industrial	
25	Great Srhrn	Industrial	
26	Clinton Cards	Drapery Stor	
27	Maunders (J)	Building.Rds	
28	Tibbet & Britn	Transport	
29	Barran Devs	Building.Rds	
30	Storehouse	Drapery.Stor	
31	Electrocomponts	Electrical	
32	Caritas Comm	Leisure	
33	Leslie	Mining	
34	HK Land	Property	
35	Pilkn	Electrical	
36	Marley	Building.Rds	
37	TNT	Transport	
38	Swire Pacic 'A'	Industrial	
39	Ratne Ind	Building.Rds	
40	Slebe	Industrial	

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Please take into account any minus signs

£1,000 MATCH THE SHARES

If you have ticked off your eighth share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 53272 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the *Sunday Times* for full details)

Two winners share yesterday's Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000. Mr C Pennington, Constitution Hill, Woking and Mr S Barnett of Scarcroft, Leeds.

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
362	284	Meyer Int	362	+21	16.5	5.7	37.3
4	4	Mfstd Gpa	4	...	...	...	...
104	62	Mowlem (J)	104 †	+4	4.0	4.8	...
78	63	NSM	63	...	...	...	...
53	48	Needler ▪	48	...	...	4.0	∞
140	106	Newman Tuks	138	+2	...	4.3	∞
270	197	Pentland	272	+10	8.6	4.0	27.8
26	22	Phoenix Timber	22	...	...	...	...
1625	1462½	Pochin	1462½	...	28.0	2.5	8.9
48	40	Prowting	41	...	3.4	4.7	∞
6½	4½	Quilligotts ▪	4½	...	...	...	...
671	535	RMC Gp	671 †	+10	20.0	3.7	∞
117	90	Raine Ind	100	+2	6.0	7.5	16.7
36	28	Ramsis ▪	28	-1	...	...	...
600	402	Redland	440 †	+1	...	2.1	32.2
75	54	Rexlot	67 †	...	4.3	8.0	9.8
254	207	Rugby Group	248	-1	6.4	3.5	∞
42	25	Svrtld-Rwa	42	+1	...	...	...
104	68	Sharpe & Fisher	94 †	...	4.0	5.3	∞
172	110	Sheffield Ind	161	...	5.4	4.2	20.0
99	82	Sheriff Hdgs ▪	99	...	...	2.6	14.5
95	90	Skeeva ▪	70 †	...	...	8.6	∞
225	205	Smart (J)	205	...	8.5	5.3	9.3
6½	4½	Stanilin	5	-½	0.3	7.5	6.0
142	103	Tarmac	141	+1	5.5	4.9	20.3
194	151	Tay Homes	173	+2	5.6	4.2	11.1
116	93	Taylor Woodrw	113 †	+10	1.0	1.1	...
533	433	Tilbury Douglas	498	+10	33.0	8.7	∞
34	19	Toms Hitre ▪	20	...	...	2.2	...
192	168	Travis Perkins	191	+1	8.0	5.2	27.0
34	30	TTY Group	32 †	...	1.0	3.9	9.1
28	20	Tudor ▪	28 †	...	...	1.1	...
67	41	Vibroplant	54	...	3.6	8.3	9.9
41	29	Ward Hdgs	35	...	...	...	...
36	28	Watmoughs	30	...	...	4.6	∞
475	360	Wates Build	443	-1	10.7	3.1	∞
14	6	Wescol ▪	14	...	...	...	...
179	90	Westbury	139	+7	...	4.4	...
12	4½	West Scaffold ▪	9	...	...	...	...
12	5	Wiggins	9	...	...	...	...
434	371	Wilson Bowdn	434 †	+10	8.2	2.5	20.8
190	147	Wilson (C)	190	+6	5.8	3.6	∞
169	102	Wimpey G	169	+11	5.2	3.9	∞
62	35	YRM	43	...	4.0	...	4.6

BUSINESS SERVICES

675	463	ADT	598	-2	...	...	∞	
228	148	Adam & Harvey	213	...	11.0	6.5	3.3	
88	56	Air London ▪	85	+1	...	5.1	10.5	
30	27	Alfred Lakes	44 †	...	2.0	5.7	...	
175	125	Auto Sec	168	+2	5.3	4.1	...	
108	84	BET Dfd	99	...	...	8.2	14.5	
76	41	BNB Res	75	...	4.6	8.2	...	
318	258	BPP	285	+6	8.0	3.5	15.2	
365	290	Barbour Index	350	...	9.0	3.5	18.9	
20	15	Bemstead	18	...	0.7	5.0	∞	
226	184	Brit Data Mgt	208	...	...	2.4	17.3	
14	11	Broadcastlne ▪	14	...	...	...	...	
65	54	Bunzl Service	65	+1	...	...	...	
104	86	CRT Gp	99	...	2.4	3.6	10.2	
173	139½	Capita Group	165 †	-2	...	1.0	∞	
405	324	Caradon	389	+1	0.3	1.6	14.7	
55	40	Chilcott Capital	51	+1	...	...	...	
43	26	Christie	43	...	...	...	...	
285	228	Cmbb Sec	275	+6	...	1.3	30.4	
23	18	Comace	20	...	...	...	...	
78	64	Corp Services	78	...	...	0.4	63.3	
445	343	Gerrard Nat	445	+1	21.0	5.0	...	
654	490	HSBC	637	+11½	19.0	3.7	∞	
634	474	HSBC HK	618	+12	19.0	3.8	∞	
396	340	Hamblins	341	...	15.0	5.1	15.1	
363	313	Joseph (L)	360	...	15.8	5.5	...	
126	96	King Shaxson	125	...	5.0	4.0	...	
398	312	Kleinwort Ben	397	-1	16.0	5.3	13.4	
573	462	Lloyds	535	-3	18.4	4.3	15.3	
87	63	Lon Scot Bk	86	...	4.4	17.0	...	
432	322	Nat Alist Bk	419½	...	9.3	...	5.2	13.6
485	398	Nat West	475	+3	17.5	4.0	28.9	
847	674	Provident	847	+4	28.5	4.2	14.7	
47	39	Rea Bros	42	-2	0.5	1.3	44.6	
274	207	Ryl Bk Scot	262	+3	8.5	4.2	11.1	
1975	1335	Schroders	1788	...	22.0	1.5	17.8	
754	576	Stand Chart	746	+6	...	3.4	...	
189½	145½	TSB	189	+2	6.4	4.2	...	
119	78	Union Disc	119	-1	...	...	...	
674	529	Warburg SG	663	-1	18.0	3.4	19.6	
227	185	-do- 6% 'A'	224	+1	...	3.3	...	
7880	4843½	Wells Fargo	7362½	-350	...	1.4	...	
160	121	Westpac	160	+1	...	5.1	...	
215	138	Wintrust	205	...	9.5	5.7	7.9	

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

248	223	Allied Colloids	224	+1	3.9	2.2	17.8
759	613	Amersham	700	+3	12.5	2.2	25.9
7	4	Anglo Utd	4	-½	0.8	...	...
10½	8¾	BatP Dfd	9700	...	...	7.1	...
269	231	BTP	240	...	8.8	4.6	17.6
119	104	Bayer DM50	113	...	...	9.0	...
156	134	Biagden	153	+5	9.5	5.8	10.5
165	137	Brent Chems	145	+2	7.4	6.3	∞
530	426	Br Bio-Tech	450	-5	...	...	...
20	18	Cntrl Gp	20	...	1.3	6.9	∞
153	127	Cumulus (P)	133 †	...	7.2	5.9	∞
608	533	Courtaulds	561	+1	13.0	2.9	15.2
270	228	Croda	269 †	+1	7.75	3.6	∞
146	121	Doeflex	128	...	4.6	4.5	9.8
198	175	Ellis & Everard	195	+12	7.8	4.5	17.8
28	15½	Euro Colour	22	...	0.6	3.7	...
291	259	Halstead (J)	285	...	12.0	2.6	14.3
245	194	Hickson	223 †	+3	8.0	4.5	∞
114½	94½	Hoechst	110½	...	...	7.8	...
214	195	Holliday Chem	214	+4	...	2.2	14.7
1284	1068	ICI	1236	+41	55.0	5.6	30.7
688	581	Laporte	638	+6	19.5	3.8	∞
168	140	Leigh	140	...	7.8	5.1	15.7
19½	11	MTM	12	...	1.8	2.4	...
1600	1462½	Norsk Hydro	1587½	...	...	1.8	∞
420	370	Paterson Zoch	419	...	11.4	3.4	18.1
375	300	-do- 'A'	371	...	11.4	3.4	16.0
296	254	Plysu	293	+1	9.6	2.8	18.1
210	173	Povair	208	...	3.6	2.2	22.2
13	7½	Sutcliffe Speak	10½	...	...	...	...
475	425	Wardle Storeys	445 †	...	16.0	4.5	17.9
490	365	Whimbledne 'A'	448 †	...	17.0	4.7	∞
392	368	Yorks Chem	385	+5	...	2.5	20.6
306	240	Yule Catto	295 †	+3	5.9	2.5	∞

DRAPERY, STORES

105	63	Alexon	83	...	3.0	4.5	...	
78	42	Amber Day	78	+5	3.1	5.0	21.4	
319	257	Argos Plc	309	-1	...	2.8	21.2	
102	69	Ashley (Laura)	101½	+½	0.1	0.1	∞	
225	183	Aspreys	209	...	...	2.1	23.5	
203	168	Austin Reed	188	...	8.0	...	54.7	
153	125	Beattie (J) 'A'	141	...	5.7	5.1	13.5	
121	97	Bentalls	108	-9	1.9	2.2	∞	
273	208	Bestwood	260	...	...	0.6	35.8	
31	22	Blacks Leis	23	...	3.3	...	4.7	
227	133	Body Shop	215	...	1.6	0.9	36.8	
15½	12	Brown & Jackson	14½	...	...	0.7	∞	
401	318	Brown (N)	364	...	6.0	2.1	22.5	
84	64½	Burton	79½	...	...	3.2	...	
181	110	Cantors	146	...	...	1.5	19.1	
355	295	Church	355	+5	12.5	4.4	16.0	
183	97	Clinton Cards	148 †	+6	4.2	3.6	∞	
247	212	Coats Viyella	244	...	...	3.7	26.8	
106	78	Colourvision ▪	88	...	...	1.7	14.9	
471	374	Conres Furnish	471	+2	5.0	1.3	23.6	
155	115	Crown Eyes	135	...	...	5.6	6.3	
105	89	Dstry Farm Ind	93	-1	...	3.7	∞	
65	51½	Dewhirst (J)	58	...	...	2.8	∞	
231	194½	Dixons Grp	212	+1	6.0	3.3	24.9	
380	320	Dunhill	360	+11	7.7	2.5	13.5	
21	12½	ERA Gp	14	...	...	...	...	
530	400	Ely (Wimblido)	400	...	16.0	5.2	∞	
115	78	Essex Furn	104	...	...	3.3	17.6	
320	203	Exam	238	+3	6.6	3.8	19.5	
582	496	Fine Art Dev	554	...	11.0	2.5	21.3	
50	28	Fired Earth Tiles	38	...	...	...	...	
800	600	Firstwave	800	...	...	12.5	3.1	10.4
51	34	French Conn ▪	50	...	...	1.8	42.3	
47	21	Gabbitas ▪	46	...	...	2.0	9.2	
68	43	Gent Sit	68	...	...	2.0	14.4	
41	29	Goldsmiths Gp	41	...	...	2.5	...	
2788	2400	GUS	2783	+80	40.0	1.8	22.2	
1728	1563	-do- 'A'	1654	+21	40.0	2.4	20.3	
40	34	Hampden Gps ▪	36 †	...	...	3.5	∞	
227	180	Hartstone	180	...	4.8	2.6	6.8	
29½	22½	Helene Plc	23 †	...	2.0	10.9	∞	
42	29	Heritage ▪	38	...	...	...	...	
82	56	Honeysuckle ▪	58	+2	...	2.2	8.2	
189	125	Hse of Lerose	185	...	7.0	7.0	∞	
97	63	Jacques Vert	97	-1	3.0	...	...	
398	296	Kingfisher	386	...	...	3.0	16.2	
329	236	Leshe Wise Gp	320	...	4.0	7.1	16.4	
698	595	Liberty	690	...	7.5	1.6	30.5	
313	265	Lloyds Chem	310	+10	9.5	3.0	11.7	
152	120	MFI	128	+1	...	3.7	17.1	
346	311	Marks Spencer	338	+2	7.1	2.5	21.2	
497	445	Menzies (John)	492	+4	18.0	2.5	16.5	
192	135	Moss Bros	174	...	4.3	2.2	16.5	
174	139½	Next	163	...	7.1	3.9	∞	
24	15	Oliver (G)	24	...	...	3.6	23.5	
250	197	Original Inf	215	...	...	...	14.0	
63	45	Pentos	60	...	3.5	5.8	14.3	
313	255	QS Hldgs	282	...	...	5.1	2.3	∞
19	11	Rainers Group	16½	...	0.4	2.4	17.9	...
35	30	Rhino Gps	35½	...	...	...	...	...
164	137	Sherwood Gp	164 †	...	3.6	2.0	∞	
230	174	Sears	194½	...	...	6.2	28.7	
498	400	Smith WH 'A'	438	+3	12.4	3.9	15.2	
264	204	Spectrahyde ▪	264	...	...	...	...	
219	176	Stanhouse	205	+4	5.0	3.1	...	
191	154	T & S Stores	154	...	5.6	4.8	...	
133	71	Tie Rack	127	...	2.0	1.8	∞	
212	160	Time Products	208	...	7.5	4.7	19.6	
220	161	Usher (Frank) ▪	162	...	...	4.6	7.7	
65	37	Vivat	54	...	1.0	3.5	11.1	
80	55	Wenstms ▪	68	...	...	...	...	
118	78	Wickes	98	+1	...	...	43.8	
65	45	Will of Leathers	51	...	...	...	...	
191	148	Wyevale	190	...	...	2.6	...	
34	21	Yrk-vision ▪	34	...	...	...	32.7	

ELECTRICALS

182	147	ACT Group	152	-6	6.5	3.7	15.0		
22	12	Acala	20½	...	...	3.1	19.9		
162½	38	Acorn Comps	103	-½	...	...	...		
488	385	Admiral	463	...	5.4	1.5	18.7		
101	104	Alba	138	...	4.7	4.6	17.1		
43	19½	Alphasonic	19	...	...	...	...		
38½	22	Amstrad	35½	...	0.4	...	...		
138	78	App Holns	78	+10	...	...	...		
17	13	Arden	13	...	...	...	...		
39½	35½	Astec	36	...	...	...	...		
240	206	Beales Hunter	207	...	9.2	4.2	14.8		
6	3½	Bennett & Fount	5½	...	...	...	...		
381	310	BICC	360 †	+14	19.2	5.7	24.4		
575	455	Bicc	570	...	9.2	2.4	18.7		
1650	1150	Borlands	1400	+150	...	...	...		
329	224	Bowthorpe	317	+8	10.2	3.2	∞		
449½	376	BT	432	+2	16.4	4.2	17.9		
9	5½	Bulgin (A) 'A'	7½	...	0.1	1.7	...		
151	110	Burndtrd	139	...	5.7	4.1	22.8		
700	589	Cable Wirelss	700	-5	15.2	2.1	22.5		
14½	11½	Cmmnc	14½	...	...	...	...		
251	229	Cntl Micro ▪	250	...	...	3.4	16.5		
98	74	Comptr People	98	...	...	0.6	0.9	...	
191	109½	Cray Elect	142	+7	...	0.5	11.6	...	
329	243	Crtchley	310	...	...	5.5	12.3	...	
498	414	Delta	486	+1	14.0	3.0	∞		
298	205	Desmonds Ele	298	...	...	1.7	12.1	...	
620	480	Domino	515	-15	12.2	2.4	17.6	...	
65	48	Dowding Mills	55 †	...	2.5	3.7	18.1	...	
1015	868	Dtcnte	1015	+5	...	1.2	24.7	...	
411	358	Electrocomponts	391	-7	7.0	1.7	21.2	...	
573	470	El Data Prc	558	...	9.1	1.6	23.2	...	
88	43	Electron House	83	-10	2.1	2.5	23.3	...	
114	107	Emess	107	...	2.3	1.3	26.8	...	
587	442	Eurotherm	587	+1	9.0	1.7	28.7	...	
173	108	FKI	172	+4½	2.3	2.3	24.6	...	
398	340	Farnell Elect	376	+1	5.8	1.9	22.5	...	
37	29	Feedback	37	...	...	...	...	...	
18	9½	Ferranti	15½	...	...	...	...	...	
165	101	First Tech	165	+9	...	...	...	...	
206	88	Forward Gps	206 †	+26	...	1.5	24.7	...	
21	17	Forward Tech	20	...	...	...	...	...	
297½	254	GEC	276	-3	9.8	3.8	16.9	...	
182	132	Genelty	175	+3	10.0	7.8	∞	...	
31	29	Hilclimbers	30	...	...	1.6	15.7	...	
466	451	Hepkyns Gp	465	...	...	2.4	9.6	25.9	...
120	83	INSTRAC	102	+1	...	3.9	15.2	...	
378	320	James Howell	378	...	9.0	2.6	14.3	...	
10	8	Kentray	10	+1	0.3	4.7	33	...	
321	260	Kenwood App	309	+1	...	...	...	16.4	...

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

403	346	Abbey Nt	390	-5	11.5	3.7	15.0	
258	179	Allied Irish	250	-1	...	6.0	14.9	
176	130	Aust New Z	163	-1	...	5.9	14.9	
3816½	2831½	Bankamerica	3243½	-113½	...	...	...	
290	188	Bk of Ireland	238	-5	...	5.0	38.1	
325	255	Bk Lionel UK	325	...	17.0	6.5	...	
140	116½	Bank Scotland	134	+1	4.3	4.1	21.1	
464	362	Barclays	433	+6	15.1	4.4	∞	
3½	3	Benchmark	3½	...	...	...	...	
52	31	Brown Shipley	35	...	...	...	...	
19½	15½	Carlisle	19½	...	...	...	...	
485	395	Cater Allen	485	...	26.0	6.7	...	
116	85	Cattles	115	...	...	4.6	∞	
2450	1787	Chase Manh	2137½	-90½	...	...	...	
2040½	1545	Citicorp	1852½	-25	...	...	...	
345	290	Close Bros	325	...	...	3.7	14.5	
6125½	4275	Commercibk	6123½	...	...	3.2	...	
2304½	1750½	Deutsche Bk	2286	-262½	...	2.2	...	
81	45	First Nat Fin	60	...	...	...	...	
1227	876	Fuji Bank Y	1156 §	+5	...	0.4	63.3	
445	343	Gerrard Nat	445	+1	21.0	5.0	...	
654	490	HSBC	637	+11½	19.0	3.7	∞	
634	474	HSBC HK	618	+12	19.0	3.8	∞	
396	340	Hambros	341	...	15.0	5.1	15.1	
363	313	Joseph (L)	360	...	15.8	5.5	...	
126	96	King Shaxson	125	...	5.0	4.0	...	
398	312	Kleinwort Ben	397	-1	16.0	5.3	13.4	
573	462	Lloyds	535	-3	18.4	4.3	15.3	
87	63	Lon Scot Bk	86	...	4.4	17.0	...	
432	322	Nat Alist Bk	419½	...	9.3	...	5.2	13.6
485	398	Nat West	475	+3	17.5	4.0	28.9	
847	674	Provident	847	+4	28.5	4.2	14.7	
47	39	Rea Bros	42	-2	0.5	1.3	44.6	
274	207	Ryl Bk Scot	262	+3	8.5	4.2	11.1	
1975	1335	Schroders	1788	...	22.0	1.5	17.8	
754	576	Stand Chart	746	+6	...	3.4	...	
189½	145½	TSB	189	+2	6.4	4.2	...	
119	78	Union Disc	119	-1	...	...	...	
674	529	Warburg SG	663	-1	18.0	3.4	19.6	
227	185	-do- 6% 'A'	224	+1	...	3.3	...	
7880	4843½	Wells Fargo	7362½	-350	...	1.4	...	
160	121	Westpac	160	+1	...	5.1	...	
215	138	Wintrust	205	...	9.5	5.7	7.9	

BREWERIES

646	547	Allied-Lyons	586	-3	28.0	4.4	13.1	
647	531	Bass	629	+4	28.0	4.2	13.2	
258	189	Boddingtn	250	...	7.3	3.6	14.6	
415	362	Bulmer (HP)	405	+1	9.0	2.8	18.6	
193	129	Burtonwd Brw	190	...	4.4	4.0	10.1	
307	261	Dewhirst (JA)	306	...	7.8	3.2	17.2	
98	75	Eldridge F 'A' ▪	90	...	...	4.5	23.8	
68½	54½	Fosters Brewing	59½	-2½	...	5.3	7.1	
360	338	Fuller Sm 'A' ▪	358	...	...	2.3	15.0	
480	411	Grand Met	480	...	12.3	3.7	13.9	
423	386	Greenalls Grp	408	+2	11.7	3.6	13.5	
563	505	Greene King	554	...	11.6	2.8	14.4	
516	440	Guinness	488 †	-5	31	11.2	13.2	
281	230	Hardy Hanson	256	...	7.9	4.1	13.2	
113	108	Heavitree	108	...	3.0	2.5	25.9	
78	78	-do- 'A' 12½p	78	...	3.0	4.9	18.7	
298	255	Highland Dist	285 †	-2	9.0	2.6	18.9	
3125	2535	Holt J	2938	...	35.0	1.5	20.5	
55	33	Hoskins Brew	54	...	...	...	30.9	
323	250	Invrgordn Dist	298	...	7.0	3.3	∞	
186	157	Macallan-Glen	157 †	...	0.9	0.7	29.3	
625	372	Macrh Mastn 'A'	578	...	8.8	2.6	11.8	
732	654	Marshfield	714	...	13.0	2.3	17.7	
256	231	Mrston Thmp	243	...	4.9	2.5	14.2	
439	412	Matthew Clark	422	...	15.7	4.7	12.7	...
300	253	Morgdwn W	260	...	...	3.8	14.8	...
490	455	Morland	460	...	8.4	2.3	18.3	...
12	9½	Paramount ▪	10	...	...	2.1	17.7	...
950	763	SA Breweries	763	-22	...	3.5	∞	...
482½	408	Scot & Nwc	470	+5	14.1	4.3	12.8	...
198	161	Taunton Cider	194	+4	...	4.2	11.7	...
242	213	Vaux Group	230	+1	13.0	2.9	15.2	...
266	225	Wdwrdspoint ID	255	...	...	2.4	20.6	...
497½	435	Whitbread 'A'	488	+1	18.9	4.7	12.7	...
1181	980	-do- 'B'	1175	...	44.0	4.7	24.6	...
613	561	Wolvrhmptn D	593	...	11.4	2.5	15.8	...
515	480	Young 'A'	480	...	14.5	3.8	21.0	...

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115	73	Abbey	115	...	...	1.2	41.5
27	13	Abrdgdonne ▪	18	...	...	...	...
108	87	Allens	98	-2	...	8.9	10.8
64	45	Amec	61 †	+1	3.0	4.3	∞
9½	4	Angela Sec	9	...	...	...	...
188	155	Ansvrdale	181	...	4.1	2.9	22.4
242	210	Arwoods	210	-1	5.0	5.8	15.7
238	180	BPB Ind	225	+4	...	4.2	57.2
93	57	Beggridge Brk	85	...	3.1	4.6	28.6
31	19	Bailey (Ben) Cls	28	+½	0.5	...	...
111	74	Barrow	111	...	1.2	2.0	14.0
165	94	Barrow Devs	143	+8	2.0	1.7	15.9
417½	305	Beazley	410	+11	11.5	3.5	23.8
32	15	Bellwinch	29	...	...	...	...
411	285½	Berkeley Gp	413	+11	...	1.8	28.5
63	45	Bett Bros	58	...	...	...	2.4
46	36	Blockleys	46 †	...	1.0	2.8	∞
294	199	Blue Circle	288 †	+3	11.2	5.9	∞
184	130	Boot (Henry)	281	+4	5.0	2.7	∞
109	78	Bovis Hldg Plc	93 †	+3	4.6	6.2	∞
105	82	Br Dredging	104 †	+1	5.2	6.2	∞
59	45	Brx Fixings	58	+1	1.5	3.6	...
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ACCOUNTANCY

Poor management is biggest cause of company failures

Sarah Bagnall says attempts to save more insolvent companies have run into frustrating snags

MANAGEMENT failure is still a significant cause of company collapses, accounting for more than a third of all insolvencies, according to a survey by the Society of Practitioners of Insolvency (SPI).

Mark Homan, SPI president, said the survey, which covered 1,686 companies that went bust between April and September 1992, showed that "management's ingenuity for finding ways of failing knows no bounds".

Surprisingly, loss of market, which in part reflects the state of the economy, was only the second most often cited reason for company collapses. The disappearance of markets or products were blamed for 31 per cent of failures, up from 27 per cent last time. Other recession-related reasons, such as bad debts, also increased. Fraud was, however, insignificant.

The SPI acknowledges that as the recession bit deeper, there were fewer opportunities for insolvency practitioners to rescue ailing companies. The overall business survival rate, measured in terms of whether a going concern emerges from the insolvency process, was 35.5 per cent. This compared with the 63 per cent success rate recorded in the SPI's last survey, which covered insolvencies between October 1991 and March 1992.

One possible reason, the survey noted, was the marked drop in the number of cases when existing management took the opportunity to buy part, or all of the business. These fell from 34 per cent of insolvencies to 7 per cent.

Mr Homan stressed that in many cases the businesses "were gone, rather than going, concerns when the body arrived on the table". As a result, he said, the report's findings that 47 per cent of receiverships and 67 per cent of administrations managed to produce live businesses probably underestimated the practitioners' success in saving anything that had any future. Mr Homan said: "We are the corporate surgeons, not the corporate undertakers."

Despite the difficult conditions, insolvency practitioners managed to save about 40 per cent of the jobs threatened by companies going bust. There were marked differences in the success rate, which was found to depend on the size of a company. For companies with less than 30 employees, the survey found that less than one in six jobs were saved compared with three quarters at companies with more than 100 employees.

Results also varied significantly from region to region. In Northern Ireland, receivers saved more than 90 per cent of jobs in seven cases involving 400 or more employees. This compares with only 37 per cent of jobs saved in the North West of England, the next highest percentage. The report draws attention to the "Pennine Gap". The fortunes of businesses in the North East contrast sharply with those to the west of the Pennines.

The North East was the hardest hit area and the only region in mainland Britain where less than a fifth of jobs in failed companies were saved. Only 9 per cent of jobs were saved in the region.

The contrast is also apparent from the figures for company survival. The North East's survival rate of 2 per cent is England's lowest and compares with the North West's survival rate of 15.5 per cent. The figures show a change in circumstances, however, between the two regions since the SPI's last survey. The previous one found that 12 per cent of companies in the North East were saved between October 1992 and March 1992 compared with 10 per cent in the North West. Both the South East and the Midlands have also seen a drop in survival rates, which have approximately halved to 17 per cent and 14 per cent respectively.

The disparity is also seen when the reasons for company failures are analysed. Compared with a national average of 34 per cent, nearly 50 per cent of collapses in the North East were blamed on management. The only region to surpass this level was the North West, where management fault accounted for just over half of failures. At the other end of the spectrum was the management of Midlands companies, which bore the blame for 15 per cent of company failures.

The regional breakdown must, however, be treated with caution, said Mr Homan. "This is because there are industry differences and also differing financial support," he said.

The banks were found to be less significant causes of collapse recently than could have been expected, given the fire they have come under for pulling the rug from under so many companies earlier in the recession. The survey found that loss of long-term finance was only to blame in 3 per cent of cases.



TONY WHITE

"Corporate surgeons, not corporate undertakers": Mark Homan, SPI president

Litigation Rumpoles argue their case

THE real problem for accountants worried about their huge burden of litigation is that the present system is monstrously unfair, but any attempt at a solution sounds like special pleading for the profession.

Probably the best analysis of the problem and the options available has just appeared in the response from Barlow Lyde & Gilbert, the City law firm, to the Auditing Practices Board's report on the future development of auditing. The firm has a unique perspective on the whole issue because its partners' policy is only to defend accountants in litigation worldwide. They are the Rumpoles of this area of the law.

As you might expect, the firm has some fairly trenchant points to make, as well as some surprising, though logical, conclusions. Taking the APB report as its starting point, it agrees that the issue of sorting out the legal obligations, before the audit profession goes for the reforms it wants, is crucial.

"We believe," the firm says, "that this is the key to any extension of the scope of the audit or of the class of persons entitled to rely on the auditor's opinion." But, as I said, whenever auditors start trying to have the law made somewhat fairer, those of a political bent immediately retort that auditors are fat cats and deserve to have life tough. This just tilts the auditors' playing field further towards the cliff edge. It takes the Barlow paper to redress the balance or at least to draw attention to the horrors that could lie ahead. "Without seeking to over-dramatise the position," it says "we believe that to agree to the extension of responsibilities without concurrent changes to the legal exposure could be a recipe for disaster and could threaten the existence of the profession."



AUDIT

ROBERT BRUCE

The truth of this is underlined by remarks by Gary Tidwell, a former US Securities and Exchange Commission investigator, in a book to be published next week on the $158 million fraud perpetrated by Jim and Tammy Bakker, the television evangelists.

In his book, Tidwell argues that "the accountancy profession is currently in a crisis". He goes on to say that "United States accountants face approximately 4,000 liability suits and more than $15 billion in damages. The six largest accounting firms have paid more than $300 million in just the past year to settle pending lawsuits."

Not surprisingly, the American firms are campaigning jointly to have the law that allows frivolous cases changed. Equally, it is no surprise that firms in the UK are getting together to campaign for reform of the law as well. This is not to say that they are trying to slip off the litigation hook. As one senior partner put it to me last week: "Blame is not an issue." If a firm makes a huge error and is liable for a disaster, then the company should be able to claim restitution.

The problem comes when it is obvious that lawsuits are landing on auditors' desks purely because they are the only people involved who are obliged to have insurance. This invariably means they are the only people with any insurance. The result is "deep pocket litigation". A more equitable way of allocating liability is required.

The obvious method is that of proportionate liability. This has already occurred in the landmark AWA case in Australia where the litigation after a financial collapse caught the chief executive, other directors and auditors, each to the extent of their culpability. This would be the ideal. It is patently fair. Unfortunately, the English legal system is undoubtedly an ass.

The Barlow Lyde & Gilbert paper suggests that proportionate liability is a fine idea but, "we do not consider it fanciful to suppose that, even under such a system, plaintiffs would continue to pursue only those parties against whom they found it easiest to establish a case and who appeared to have the substance to meet any judgement".

Sadly, the paper concludes that "we therefore foresee the possibility of absurd and unfair results". On the other hand, it is not closing the door on it totally. Rather it argues: "Enthusiasm for change of this sort should be tempered with healthy realism and a realisation that it is likely to be a long-term process." More pragmatic as a solution would be to amend section 310 of the Companies Act. This, coincidentally, is also the preferred option of the larger accounting firms. This change would allow each company and its auditor to agree a reasonable limit of liability. With some understatement, the Barlow paper says that "interpretation of this section of the act is by no means free from difficulty" and remarks that "suffice it to say, however, that clarification of the precise effect of this somewhat opaquely drafted provision (either by the courts or the legislature) would be highly desirable".

It may be that a campaign to persuade the government to clarify or amend this section, which dates from a case in 1929, could bring about change through its legislative programme for 1994.

Whatever happens, the Barlow paper also contains a warning that the profession should heed. "Assuming the difficulties presented by Section 310 can be overcome," it says, "a careful course will, nevertheless, have to be steered between attempts to restrict liability, which do nothing to enhance the standing of the profession, and what should be seen as a genuine response by the profession to the demand that it provide more information to a wider public". That said, the possibilities for reform are strong indeed.

The author is the Associate Editor of Accountancy Age

London firms take on staff

BRITAIN'S sudden discovery of the delights of economic recovery has swiftly infected professional accountants. Smaller London firms expect to hire more staff this year, according to the latest trends survey for the London Society of Chartered Accountants.

Evidence of recruitment is patchy among larger firms, but the employment outlook among London firms as a whole is the best since the survey started two years ago. Salaries are, however, expected to remain static.

The unwonted idea of taking people on reflects growth already seen in auditing and tax work. Looking ahead, accountants expect stronger demand for consultancy from clients emerging from recession and able to pay for advice on their future. As the mirror image of these signs of recovery among clients, the boom in insolvency work is slowing and is expected to fall further as new receiverships fail to keep pace with cases where the main work is completed.

Firms are already hoping to raise their fee levels again but are looking over their shoulders to see what their competitors are doing.

ACCOUNTANCY LETTER

Small is beautiful — and cheaper

From Mr John Paxton

Sir, I have noticed that it is often implied that the smaller company of auditors is not likely to be as efficient as the well-known names.

I doubt if this is true and the moment a change is made to a great name, fees and expenses rocket.

I was chairman of a company that was taken over twice in a decade and each time there was a change to an even grander firm.

The clerks belonging to the last company even dictated which hotel we lodged them in.

Yours faithfully
JOHN PAXTON
Moss Cottage
Hardway,
Bruton, Somerset.

Fast forward to video as ATV is no licence to print money

BY EDWARD FENNELL

ACCOUNTANCY Television (ATV), the broadcasting initiative backed by the leading accountancy professional bodies, has so far attracted only 600 subscribers, far fewer than expected. After its first half year, the service, launched in the autumn of 1992, is three months behind its business plan projections.

"Although we are behind the schedule we are not worried yet," said Mike Lickiss, the Grant Thornton partner who acts as non-executive chairman of ATV. "We are particularly pleased by the quality of the programmes we are broadcasting. If they weren't up to scratch then I think we would be concerned".

ATV was launched as part of the BBC Select service of "encoded" programmes that are broadcast late at night. Subscribers need a decoder to watch the programmes, most of which are videoed and used later for in-house training.

"Accountants are conservative by nature and it's not surprising if a new idea like this tends to take some time to get off the ground," said Mr Lickiss. "It's new and different but I must stress that technically it is not difficult — my nine-year-old daughter sets it up with ease".

In fact, the figures from ATV show 87 per cent of subscribers are not accountants in practice but in-house accounts departments primarily from the *Times Top Five Hundred* companies. In most cases they are using the ATV programmes as source material from which they then develop longer training sessions. Peter Williams, ATV editor, said that by themselves the programmes do not make up a comprehensive coverage of a topic.

But the real disappointment for ATV is that take-up from high street practices has been very limited. Most big accountancy firms are recording the programmes but there is little evidence that they are being viewed on any scale.

"The reality is that the larger practices are well-resourced to undertake their own training while the message coming back from the smaller firms is that the mix of topics has not been quite right for them," said Mr Lickiss.

In response to this ATV has just launched a new video-based service called *Professional Focus*. This provides a digest of material drawn from the main series but edited to appeal specifically to the smaller accountancy firms.

"It's priced at £375 per year and all of it is judged to be relevant to the smaller firm," said Mr Lickiss, "the response from initial promotion looks very encouraging."

The fact that ATV has moved into video distribution, delivered by post, has come as a surprise to its rival Television Education Network (TEN) which already provides a similar service.

"This is not at all what I had been expecting," said Chris Bunyan, marketing project manager for TEN. "It seems to go against everything that ATV was committed to when it launched. But I suppose that what it demonstrates is that the original concept of "narrowcasting" was simply not going to work". TEN claims 18 per cent of all accountancy practices with two or more partners now subscribe and that it has 6,000 viewers per month.



Turn-off: the ATV format failed to excite many viewers

Companies fear ruling on staff share options in US

FROM EVELYN BRODIE IN SAN FRANCISCO

THE United States Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) has approved controversial new accounting rules for employee stock options which could significantly decrease reported earnings for many American companies.

The new accounting standard aims to have options granted to employees counted as an expense in the year they are granted, just as other parts of an employee's compensation package, such as salary and bonus, are part of a company's costs.

To arrive at the charge against earnings, all share options that a company grants to its employees will be assessed a "fair market value", using option pricing models, as if the option were traded.

The assessed value at the date the options are granted will be amortised over the vesting period, which varies from company to company, and the resulting value each year will reduce profits.

But the FASB is facing a barrage of disapproval about the plan. Companies with stock option schemes, venture capitalist and professional accountants all agree that the scheme is unfair, unworkable, and unnecessary. A number of companies have formed a Coalition for American Equity Expansion (CAEE) to oppose the plan, and Ken Hagerty, its director, said: "Very few of the issues FASB has dealt with have generated the philosophical opposition that this proposal has. There are no victims or aggrieved parties being helped by this change." One of the main problems lies in the estimation of the "fair market price" of a non-traded option, which, in many employee plans, may be exercised any time within ten years.

> 'Very few of the issues FASB has dealt with have generated the opposition that this proposal has'

Ernst & Young, the accountant, has written to FASB objecting to the suggested treating of employee options as expenses. Fin Most, audit partner, said: "The valuation concept being proposed by FASB theoretically has merits. But in practice, current state of the art option pricing models just can't adequately value the option instrument given to employees."

Diana Willis, project manager at the FASB, said: "Most American companies will be affected in some way, as options plans are very common, at least in terms of executive compensation."

But she added the changes are necessary as "financial statements are not really credible today, when they ignore what could be a significant part of compensation. If a company is granting a lot of options, that's something investors should know".

Although the huge option packages given to senior executives at big corporations have been under heavy fire from shareholders in recent years, the new rules are not mainly aimed at such companies, and are not part of the ongoing attempt by the Securities and Exchange Commission to make executive compensation clearer.

The main impact of the change will be felt by those companies which give options to all their employees.

Such companies tend to be small, and are particularly prevalent in the high technology industries, where options are frequently used as a form of compensation at emerging companies which cannot afford to pay more traditional forms of compensation, such as health benefits or insurance.

ShareData, a Silicon Valley company which produces stock option software, conducted a survey of companies with stock option plans. Well over half the companies with less than 500 employees give options to all their staff, while only 5 per cent of companies with more than 5,000 employees have broad-based options plans.

George Sollman is chief executive of Centigram Communications Corp, which manufactures voice messaging equipment. All of his 260 staff currently receive options, but he reckons the proposed rule could reduce Centigram's reported earnings by as much as 40 per cent, which would make his existing scheme prohibitively expensive.

Because of resistance to the plan, FASB is allowing six months for public comment after which there will be a pubiic hearing before a final standard is issued.

At present it is expected that there will be a three-year transition period during which companies will be required to disclose the value of their option plans, without actually deducting them from reported earnings. But unless there is a change of heart at the board, it seems likely that by 1997, stock options will be restricted to the executive suites.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No more the free lunch

LUNCHES, drinks parties and other forms of overt entertaining do not seem to justify their cost, Huthwaite, the Rotherham sales and management training expert, claims in a study on how medium-sized accountancy firms can win new business. Oh dear. Let us hope that everyone does not take that too seriously. Those endless yawn-stifling seminars are more effective, it seems, along with introductory specialist consultancy projects. In short, the answer is that medium-sized firms need to focus on commercial acumen to gain business and should not attempt to convince potential clients they are "lively and exciting people" rather than, how shall we put it, sound accountants. The underlying problem identified by Huthwaite has a ring of truth: "Clients don't like to pay while being sold to, but accountants don't like to devote more uncharged hours, than they have to, to client time".

Honour restored

THIS may not save the monarchy down under but should at least remove one small source of resentment. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland has finally made a simple rule change allowing members of the Australian institute to join their institute when working in Scotland. Peter Johnston, ICAS chief executive, claims the Scots did not know of the unintended insult until an Australian recently pointed it out — Canadian and New Zealand accountants have reciprocal arrangements and Scots have been welcome to join the Australian institute. When the gaffe was discovered, it took two years to redress because the Privy Council had to approve the change to the 1854 ICAS royal charter.

Better to give

EVERYTHING you wanted to know about the new Charities Act will be revealed at a seminar at the English institute on April 28, organised by Cohen Arnold, a London firm of chartered accountants. The half-day seminar will provide practical guidance and advice on charity trustees' responsibilities and liabilities. Speakers include accountants and solicitors who are tuned into the field of charities and trustee indemnity insurance. The cost is £45 plus VAT for charities and £60 plus VAT for other organisations. More details are available from David Goldberg on 071-734 1362.

Head start

Among the many accountants finishing the London marathon, Ernst & Young London VAT partner John Brown and American expatriate tax manager Carol Hipwell had inspiration from Michaela Nash, physiotherapist at the firm's London fitness centre, whose personal best of 3 hours 3 minutes put her in the top 50 British women and ahead of her own father and brother. Beneficiaries of Brown's run, which raised £2,000, included Tommy's Campaign, a charity at St Thomas's hospital, opposite E&Y's Becket House headquarters.

NUTRASWEET LONDON MARATHON RESULTS

18,900 finishers beat 4hr 40min in London

THE TIMES UNISYS

The Times **continues its exclusive coverage of the NutraSweet London Marathon with the names and times of a further 8,000 finishers. More successful competitors, provided by Unisys, official suppliers of computers for the race, will be published tomorrow.**

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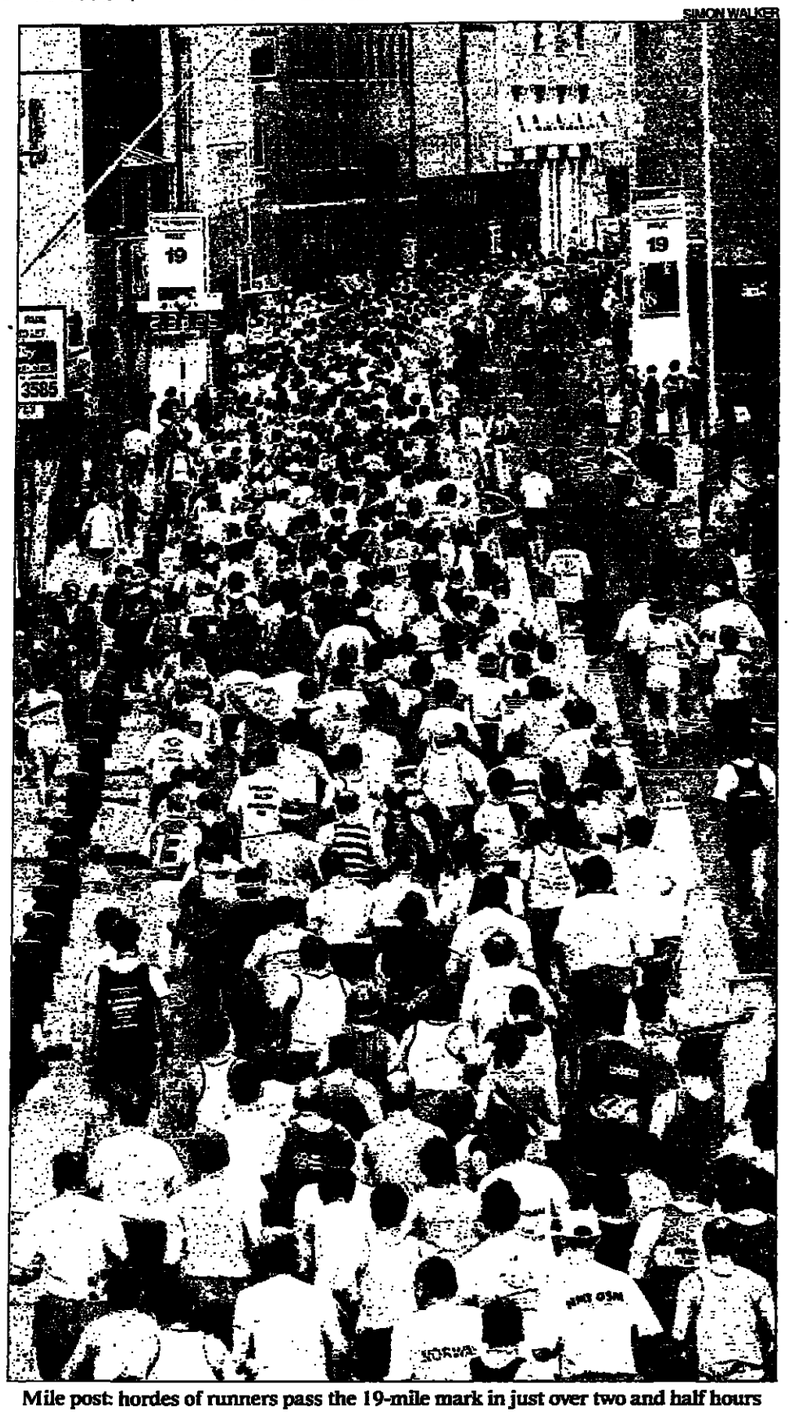
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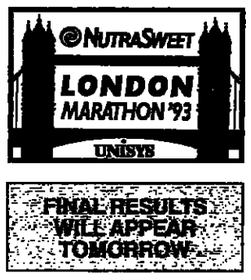
17.55 E King 4:28:03; E Myrie 4:28:03; J Reardon 4:28:03; W Mitchell 4:28:03; D Mosby 4:28:03; J O'Connor 4:28:04; A Hickinbotham 4:28:04; J Porter 4:28:05; I Veitman 4:28:06; G Strevens 4:28:06; G Wittlinger 4:28:06; J Lewis 4:28:11; J Cooper 4:28:11; K Scott 4:28:11; R Bragg 4:28:13; P Prisley 4:28:13; G Mcmanus 4:28:14; D Evans 4:28:15; F Dunlop 4:28:15; J Oregan 4:28:16; A Polidori 4:28:16; D Tate 4:28:16; P Watson 4:28:17; G Harding 4:28:17; A Trainor 4:28:17; T Johnson 4:28:17; C Otoole 4:28:17; G Williams 4:28:17; J Tumplin 4:28:17; P Gallant 4:28:47; D Mcgrath 4:28:48; J Roberts 4:28:48; J Mckenna 4:28:48; K Ruston 4:28:50; S Edwards 4:28:50; M Harris 4:28:50; M Coleman 4:28:51; J Coleman 4:28:51; R Crabtree 4:28:52; A Antoniou 4:28:52; A Sowerbutts 4:28:53; P Fahy 4:28:53

18.00 R Burbidge 4:28:24; D Shepherd 4:28:25; S Sprague 4:28:25; B · Delaperrelle 4:28:25; M Biggs 4:28:25; G Morgan 4:28:25; P Barker 4:28:25; S Sharpe 4:28:25; R Denison 4:28:27; J Turner 4:28:28; M Hugill 4:28:28; M England 4:28:29; J Nunn 4:28:29; R Cook 4:28:30; R Rowe 4:28:30; S Patel 4:28:31; R Cook 4:28:31; D Seifert 4:28:31; C Whitehead 4:28:31; P Cogle 4:28:31; D Gibney 4:28:31; R Waters 4:28:31; G Ringrose 4:28:32; G Mayes 4:28:32; D Prentis 4:28:33; M Thredgle 4:28:33; A Poole 4:28:33; I Graesz-Keswari 4:28:34; M Pryer 4:28:35; S Bruton 4:28:35; I Macfarlane 4:28:36; R Matcham 4:28:39; H Osterman 4:28:39; L Marr 4:28:39; R Collins 4:28:40; H Hackel 4:28:40; P Aylott 4:28:40; M Smith 4:28:40; C West 4:28:40; J King 4:28:41; G Warner 4:28:41; S Horry 4:28:41; A Mills 4:28:41; S Michaels 4:28:42; K Burgess 4:28:42; C Mchenry 4:28:42; N Say 4:28:42; N Lewis 4:28:42; C Leicester 4:28:42; W Jennison 4:28:42

18.05 E Benkharmaz 4:28:42; B Crowe 4:28:42; J Clement 4:28:42; W Worts 4:28:42; D Nicholson 4:28:42; S Shackleford 4:28:43; R Ferraroni 4:28:43; A Hammond 4:28:43; I Talassi 4:28:44; P Carroll 4:28:44; G Dawson 4:28:44; C Gordon 4:28:45; N Johansson 4:28:45; J Christiansen 4:28:46; R James 4:28:46; S Carruillow 4:28:47; N Spooner 4:28:48; M Godfrey 4:28:48; M Rowlay 4:28:49; J Petersen 4:28:50; W Gillett 4:28:50; R Adams 4:28:50; D Walker 4:28:50; R Bell 4:28:50; M Mcadam 4:28:50; G Smith 4:28:50; R Woodhouse 4:28:50; M Strot 4:28:50; R Sherwin 4:28:50; I Willard 4:28:51; J Hansford 4:28:51; L Russell 4:28:51; C Ruzich 4:28:52; S Tindle 4:28:52; A Dunham 4:28:52; M Dallas 4:28:52; H Hill 4:28:53; E Sullivan 4:28:55; S Hibbert 4:28:55; J Swaby 4:28:55; R Lyman 4:28:56; R Knull 4:28:56; F Haslett 4:28:58; S Marshall 4:28:59; P Law 4:28:59; K Horan 4:28:59; D Jefferies 4:28:59; A Mackay 4:28:59; S Melley 4:28:59; P Freeman 4:28:59



Mile post: hordes of runners pass the 19-mile mark in just over two and half hours



18.10 T Andrew 4:32:17; J Miller 4:32:17; A Castle 4:32:20; G Brown 4:32:21; P Brooks 4:32:21; P Stroud 4:32:23; D Keen 4:32:23; D Weilding 4:32:23; M Crook 4:32:23; C Easteal 4:32:24; J Elson 4:32:24; C Curphey 4:32:24; C Barker 4:32:25; H Durnerin 4:32:26; M Morris 4:32:26; J Marshall 4:32:27; J Thomas 4:32:27; P Masters 4:32:28; D Williamson 4:32:28; M Crocker 4:32:28; P Harman 4:32:28; R Copping-Baton 4:32:29; D Porthouse 4:32:29; B Balde 4:32:30; M Dodd 4:32:30; T Mckenna 4:32:32; D O'Connor 4:32:32; C Tedman 4:32:32; O Morgenbord 4:32:32; I Falkanen 4:32:32; D Allan 4:32:33; S John 4:32:33; K Seccombe 4:32:34; R Vincent 4:32:35; H Ringland 4:32:35; R Coggin 4:32:35; G Jackson 4:32:37; A King 4:32:37; J Stensland 4:32:38; N Labrow 4:32:39; M Ausustine-Cox 4:32:39; D Harris 4:32:39; V Sayers 4:32:40; E Bullimore 4:32:40; P Gough 4:32:40; W Thomas 4:32:40; R Kybert 4:32:41; M Powell 4:32:41; S Denny 4:32:42; J Bishop 4:32:43

18.15 K Peace 4:32:43; J Filmer 4:32:44; B Williams 4:32:44; M Freeman 4:32:45; M Stephens 4:32:46; P



OPERA page 38

Anja Silja, one of the great Kostelničkas of our time, now at Covent Garden in Jenůfa

ARTS

THEATRE page 39

Jacqueline Defferary, an emotionally erratic character in Martin Crimp's Treatment



CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** reviews this week's new films; **David Robinson** interviews director Claude Sautet

Not the perfect couple

Like Kevin Costner in *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, Richard Gere does not travel well. Plonk him down in the 19th century — **Sommersby** is set six years after the American Civil War — and he looks like a visitor from *Star Trek*. Gaze upon that twinkling grin and that famous chest (bared within 30 minutes). Observe that style-conscious hair, the tufted ends curling up so delicately. See that laughable flecked brown jacket, dreamt up by costume designer Marilyn Vance-Straker. Can this really be a Civil War soldier, back on the plantation in Tennessee after years suffering in prison?

Of course not. What we witness in this enjoyably lush, romantic film is a Hollywood star exercising his stardom, secure in the knowledge that his own production company helped nurture the whole project (based on Daniel Vigne's *The Return of Martin Guerre*, an art-house hit of the early Eighties). But with Jodie Foster, the wife this Jack Sommersby returns to, we witness something more enlightening: a gifted film actress, one of the best in her generation, wearing no-nonsense clothes, polishing her craft.

The role of Laurel Sommersby may not stretch her: Foster has played feisty young women facing hardship before. Yet she admirably captures the quicksilver feelings of fear, suspicion and rekindled love toward the man she takes into her home. For the plot hinges on a mystery. Is this returning husband, originally played by Gérard Depardieu, the same Jack Sommersby who went off to war? Since he is now left-handed, better educated, with smaller feet and a far sweeter disposition, there is room for argument.

But nobody, bar Bill Pullman's jealous Orin (pipped at the post for Laurel's hand), feels inclined to probe. Sommersby becomes the community's saviour, planting a pioneering tobacco crop that stretches as far as the widescreen camera can see: a hideous sight for all non-smokers. With Gere in the role, there is an extra mystery. When Sommersby appears awkward, is this simply Gere acting badly or the impersonator's mask slipping?

Despite the hole at its centre, the film is more successful than it has any right to be. Foster helps greatly, and British director Jon Amiel, fast rising in Hollywood, should also take a bow. The pace is leisurely; Philippe Rousselot's russet photography proves sumptuous enough for a coffee-table book. Yet scenes never congeal into a ponderous series of pretty pictures.

One plot strand pokes awkwardly through the tapestry: the racist baiting of a local black, and his championship by Gere. This is political correctness at work: and it carries as much authenticity as the hero's male-model clothes. For the rest, *Sommersby* remains well-mounted Hollywood hokum, which many Americans, anxious to escape from urban horrors, have been all too happy to swallow.

Even though we expect subtle pleasures from French art-house imports, the delicacy of Claude Sautet's marvellous **Un Coeur en Hiver** takes the breath away. (See the interview with the director, above right.) The film tells of two friends, one lover, and a disruptive affair, yet conveys much of its effect through glances, gestures, staring faces, and a few cryptic words. There is little nudity, no bedroom high-jinks: the fascination lies in seeing the characters play out the drama through their daily work routine.

These are not two truck drivers and a barmaid, either. Friends Daniel Auteuil and André Dussollier make and repair stringed instruments; Emmanuelle Béart, is a gifted young violinist who is about to record Ravel's two string sonatas and trio.

If this sounds uncomfortably precious, take heart. Claude Sautet, sadly little known outside France, is one of cinema's great observers. Here is a film of bars and cafés, sudden street downpours, apartment house stairways: the familiar texture of Paris life. Dussollier, suave and confident, has fallen in love with the violinist; Auteuil, locked in his own tidy world of fingerboards and frets, looks on sceptically. His is the heart in winter of the title. In the spirit of a game he inches himself into Béart's affections, only to pull away brutally when the game seems won.

This kind of fare needs subtle, razor-sharp performances. Sautet and his team do not disappoint. Auteuil cuts a haunting figure as the enigmatic, melancholy Stephane, quietly assembling his violins, smiling shyly into his black coffee. And Béart is exceptional as the poised musician unsettled by Cupid's darts. In the old Hollywood days, film-makers thought they could turn their stars into concert violinists by cutting in shots of Isaac Stern's arms. But Béart learnt to play the violin sufficiently well to bow and finger in sync with her soundtrack shadow, Jean-Jacques Kantorow (lifted from 20-year-old recordings, although you would scarcely know by the sound).

There is another key player: Maurice Ravel. His mysterious, magical string pieces prove the perfect partner as this exquisite drama unfolds. Do not miss *Un Coeur en Hiver*.

Where *Sommersby* gently massages the viewer, you emerge from **Mr Saturday Night** feeling pulverised, turned black and blue by a ferocious barrage of tart one-liners, shtick and schmaltz. The thuggish dispenser is Billy Crystal, who directs, produces, co-authors the script, and stars as Buddy Young Jr, a stand-up character first created nine years ago on television.

Quips and sallies rain from his lips as we are yanked through a tour of Buddy's 50-year career in Catskill hotels, clubs, Las Vegas and television. The moment the jokes cease, the breast beating starts, the loud accusations, the tears coursing down cheeks, prompted mostly by Buddy's relationship with his self-sacrificing brother and agent (David Paymer).

Crystal feels real affection for this often obnoxious, obsessive comic and the bygone world he inhabits. His timing is impeccable as Buddy baits audiences with lightning insults about their size or make-up, or bounces jokes off his Jewish upbringing. You have to laugh. But you would laugh far more, and feel more deeply, if Crystal the actor stopped Crystal the actor from hogging the show with so much relish, and if the script did not hobble on crutches.

For much of the time, Crystal and Paymer are plastered with prosthetics as weary 70-year-olds, haunted by bittersweet show business memories. Strange eyebrows aside, the makeup team do a convincing job; but Crystal's writing team Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel (fresh from *City Slickers* and *A League of Their Own*) botch the slow-dissolving flashbacks that latex always heralds. For all the ethnic colouring of Buddy's act, his neighbourhood and home life is strangely neglected; outside the flashbacks, though, the brothers' constant quarrels and reconciliations quickly become tedious.

Peppery jokes and surprises keep the film moving. Jerry Lewis pops up at the Friar's Club, favourite hang-out of veteran comics; Ron Silver amuses as a Spielberg-like director (dark glasses, fuzzy chin) toying with casting Buddy, his childhood idol. David Paymer does yeoman service as the patsy brother, but the film stands or falls by Crystal. Jokes, jokes, jokes, grin, grin, grin: he's like a prancing puppet, and you weary of his company.

There should be little chance to get tired of **British Animation Week**, which begins next Friday, April 30, at the ICA Cinema, the Odeon, Haymarket and the Museum of the Moving Image (Information: 071-932 0122). Programmes survey new productions, and salute the achievements of Bob Godfrey, the late Dianne Jackson, and Channel 4, whose funding has given British animation a great shot in the arm. Not every entry is a thing of beauty and a joy forever: *Sid the Sexist*, based on the *Viz* cartoon character, is all crude talk and nothing else. But there are plenty of delights elsewhere, such as St John Walker's dazzling *To-kyo-Zo-ic*, Mark Baker's stark fable *The Village* and Barry Purves's exquisite puppet piece *Screen Play*.



Jodie Foster (Laurel), shaves Richard Gere, who may or may not be her long-lost husband Jack, in *Sommersby*

Sommersby
MGM Shaftesbury Avenue, 12

Un Coeur en Hiver
Lumiere and Camden Plaza, 12

Mr Saturday Night
Odeon Haymarket and Screen on the Hill, 15

Matter of the heart

Claude Sautet could never be taken for anything but a Parisian — as neat in build as in dress; and with a reserve which seems forbidding until you realise that it is less Parisian hauteur than lingering shyness. "I was desperately shy and inhibited as a child. It took me a long time to get over it. I think all my films are about the collision of introverts and extroverts. That is the story of *Un Coeur en Hiver* [see the review, left] — Stephane is inhibited; Camille is extrovert."

Although he has remained one of the most consistently successful directors with French audiences, Sautet remains practically unknown in this country. He is delighted, though, at the reception here of *Un Coeur en Hiver* (and Channel 4 has bought his previous *Quelques Jours Avec Moi*) and amused to be "discovered" in his seventieth year and after 44 years in films.

He was born in the Parisian suburb of Montrouge on February 23, 1924. His father was a businessman, but he talks much more about his mother, who took his cultural formation firmly in hand. "She decided I had to have an artistic direction, so she encouraged my interest in music, painting and sculpture."

After art school he ran a rehabilitation centre for juvenile delinquents, but again his mother pushed him to enrol at the national film school, IDHEC. His interest in music persisted. While at film school he contributed music reviews to *Combat*. Later, critics would regularly discuss his films in terms of their musical form.

After IDHEC he did a variety of odd jobs on commercial pictures and in time acquired a reputation as a "script doctor". "I turned out to be very good at it, and I enjoyed it. It was a wonderfully irresponsible job. Your name wasn't on the credits. You didn't get the blame. But my mother pushed me again, this time to become a director in my own right." In 1951 he directed a short, *Nous N'Irons Plus au Bois*, and in 1955 the feature comedy *Bonjour Sourire*. Never in a rush, in the 38 years since then he has made only 12 features.



Director Claude Sautet: unmistakably Parisian

One reason why Sautet failed to get recognition abroad may have been that he was eclipsed by the directors of the "nouvelle vague", whose debuts coincided with his own. They were in revolt against the "cinéma de papa". Temperamentally classicist, Sautet "was quite comfortable with the cinema as it was. I didn't actually meet the new wave directors — Truffaut and Chabrol and the others — until years afterwards, by which time they had all gone their different ways too."

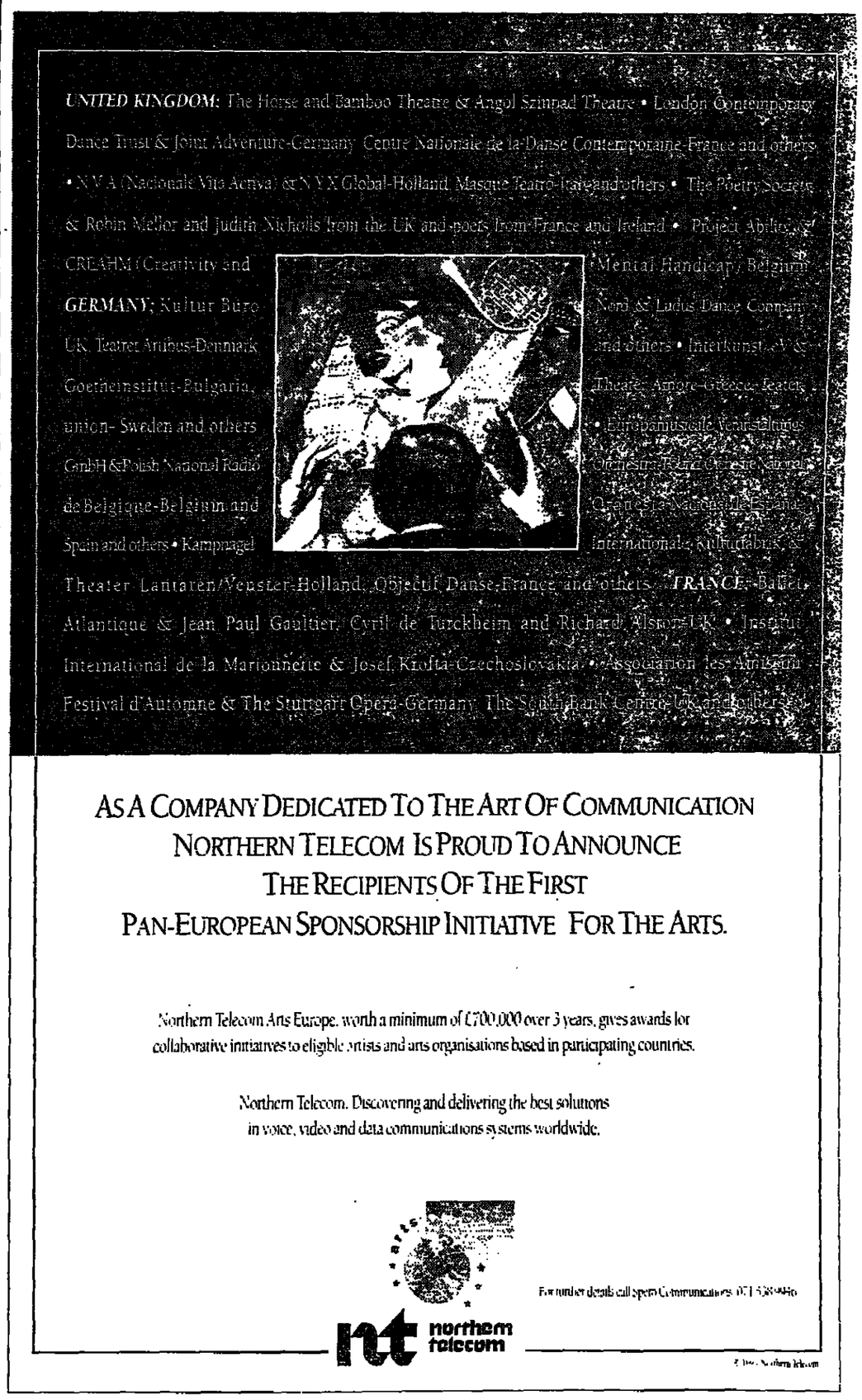
After a couple of thrillers with Lino Ventura, his first great critical success was *Les Choses de la Vie*, in which he first worked with Michel Piccoli and Romy Schneider. "I was about 40 when I found this group of actors who seemed to express what was in me at this age — Piccoli, Yves Montand and Schneider. When Romy was first suggested, I didn't want to use her. She seemed to be finished. Then I met her and realised that at 30 she was transformed. She had become a marvellous actress. I made five films with her, four with Piccoli and three with Montand.

"But then the time came when they no longer expressed what I wanted to express. That happens. Then you have to go on to new actors." Sautet has always had a gift for picking new talent: among the two actors he cast over the years were Jean-Paul Belmondo, Isabelle Huppert and Gérard Depardieu.

For *Un Coeur en Hiver*, he was at first nervous about teaming the marvellous Emanuelle Béart and Daniel Auteuil, with whom he had already worked in *Quelques Jours avec Moi*. "The whole essence of the story is this resistance between them: but in real life they are a very happy couple, terribly proud of their new baby. So I didn't know how it would work; and they were nervous themselves. It could have been disastrous; but it worked marvellously. I think they both discovered things that they had not known about each other."

DAVID ROBINSON





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LONDON

JENUFA: Yuri Lyubimov returns to revive his production of Janáček's grim tale. Jiří Kout conducts a cast including *Nancy Gustafson in the title role (see review, right).*
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-240 1066/1911). 7.30pm.

A JOVIAL CREW Max Stafford-Clark's marvellous discovery of a play about the lure of the vagabond life (see feature, page 39).
The Pit, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891), opens tonight, 7pm.

DON'T FOOL WITH LOVE/THE BLIND MEN. Cheek by Jowl arrive in London with their touring version of Alfred de Musset's tempestuous love-triangle, preceded by a neat curtain-raiser by Ghelderode
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (071-867 1150). Opens tonight, 7pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3pm

ON THE LEDGE Alan Bleasdale's comic and chaotic vision of inner city collapse opens at the National following its world premiere in Nottingham. Robin Lefevre's ebullient acted production stars Mark McGann and David Ross
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Previews tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.15pm, opens Tues, 7pm.

COMPOSERS ENSEMBLE The ensemble presents a portrait of Luciano Berio in song including works by his father Ernesto, his teacher (Ghedini) colleagues (Pousseur and Maderna) and composers that influenced him Monteverdi, Stravinsky, Brahms, Schumann and Ravel. In addition, they give the first performance of Franco Donatoni's *An Angel Within My Heart.* Diego Masson conducts; the singers are Mary Wiegold, Mary King and Geoffrey Dolton
St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (071-222 1061), 7.30pm.

PHILHARMONIA. Mikhail Pletnev conducts works by Weber (overture, *Oberon*); Mozart (Clarinet Concerto); and Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 6) Michael Collins is the featured soloist.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800), 7.30pm.

JIMMY CLIFF: With reggae back in vogue the Jamaican star's London concert is well-timed.
Brixton Academy, Stockwell Road, SW9 (071-326 1022). 7pm.

MACLENNAN DANCE AND COMPANY Leading British choreographer Sue MacLennan presents "Spontaneous Combustion", a dance performance juxtaposing improvised and structured pieces
Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (081-748 3354), tonight-Sat, 7.45pm.

REGIONAL

EDINBURGH: The Silk Cut City Jazz programme kicks off with saxophonist Marceo Parker who, along with band members Fred Wesley and Pee Wee Ellis, *provided the brass for many of* James Brown's classic 1960s hits.

Queen's Hall, Clerk Street (031-668 2019), 8pm

LEEDS: An exhibition of Romanesque stone sculpture from medieval England opens the new Henry Moore Institute in *Leeds where Moore studied. Designed* by the architects Jeremy Dixon and Edward Jones, the £5 million centre has been created out of three 19th-century wool merchants' houses in Cookridge Street, and will be linked by bridge to Leeds City Art Gallery. The new show offers a unique opportunity to see two major series of works, from York Minster and Lincoln Cathedral, which were *removed from their original exterior* positions more than 20 years ago to prevent further damage from weather and pollution.
Henry Moore Institute, 74 The Headrow (0532 467467). Mon-Fri, 10am-5.30pm (Wed to 9pm), Sat-Sun, 1-5pm, until July 19

LEEDS: Puccini's tear-jerker *La Bohème* returns to Opera North's repertoire for the first time in five years in a new production by Phyllida Lloyd and Anthony Ward, the team responsible for the company's delightful staging of Chabrier's *L'Etoile* a year ago. The cast includes Jane Leslie MacKenzie as Mimi, Juliet Booth as Musetta, and William Burden, Robert Hayward, William Dazeley and Graeme Broadbent as the bohemian quartet. Roy Laughlin conducts.
Grand Theatre, New Briggate (0532 459351), 7.15pm.

GLASGOW Sir Alexander Gibson conducts the Royal Scottish Orchestra in Weber's overture, *Oberon,* Dvořák's Cello Concerto (with Robert Cohen as the soloist) and Brahms's Second Symphony.
Royal Concert Hall, Buchanan Street (041-227 5511), tonight, Sat, 7.30pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

■ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS.** Stephen Daldry's thrilling Expressionist production of Priestley's soul-searcher
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight, 7.15pm 115mins

☐ **THE INVISIBLE MAN** Not so cosy a venue as its birthplace in Stratford East but the show is as jolly as ever. Paul Kiev's magic tricks are amazing.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm 150mins.

◪ **KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN** Tremendously glossy production of the Kander & Ebb musical, based on Manuel Puig's novel. A new cast takes over led by Bebe Neuwirth.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat 3pm 160mins.

☐ **THE LAST YANKEE:** Subtle and touching Arthur Miller premiere. Margot Leicester, Peter Davison lead a quartet of middle-aged Americans troubled by material success. First seen at the Young Vic.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Previewing eves, 7.45pm, opens May 4, 7.45pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

☐ **LOST IN YONKERS** *Terrific* performance by Rosemary Harris in a Neil Simon comedy more weighty than usual. Maureen Lipman gives good value as a loopy aunt.
Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm 160mins

☐ **MISERY** Jules T. Wallace and Nigel Le Vaillant in nonsensical but chilling production of Stephen King's thriller
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (071-839 4488). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 150mins.

☐ **NO MAN'S LAND.** Paul Eddington and the author in tense, sharply comic Pinter. Riveting stuff
Comedy, Panton Street, W1 (071-867 1045). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. 130mins.

☐ **ON THE PISTE.** John Godber's slight but amusing look at partner trouble in a downmarket ski resort.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5085). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 135mins

◪ **RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL:** Welcome revival of St John Hankin's satirical 1905 comedy where a ne'er-do-well justifies sponging on his family.
Orange Tree, 1 Clarence Street, Richmond (081-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm 120mins

☐ **TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT:** John Wells. William Gaunt, Richard Kane and Christopher Gee play all 26 parts in Giles Havergal's cunning adaptation of Graham Greene's novel.
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (071-867 1119). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. 140mins

LONG RUNNERS: ☐ **Blood Brothers** Phoenix (071-867 1044) ◪ **Buddy:** Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . ◪ **Cats:** New London (071-405 0072) . . ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner:** Duchess (071-494 5070) ◪ **Five Guys Named Moe** Lyric (071-494 5045) ☐ **An Ideal Husband** Globe (071-494 5065) . . ☐ **It Runs in the Family:** Playhouse (071-839 4401) . . ■ **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** Palladium (071-494 5037) . . ◪ **Les Misérables.** Palace (071-434 0909) ◪ **Miss Saigon.** Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-494 5400) . . . ☐ **The Mousetrap.** St Martin's (071-836 1443) ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (071-494 5400) ☐ **Starlight Express.** Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . ☐ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (071-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of West End Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

◆ **CITY OF ANGELS.** Top quality Larry Gelbart/Cy Coleman musical, packed with wit, set in L.A. and the world of the private eye movie
Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (071-839 5972). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm 160mins

■ **CRAZY FOR YOU** Thrillingly staged new version of the Gershwin musical *Girl Crazy.*
Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (071-734 8951). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm 150mins

☐ **CYRANO DE BERGERAC** Robert Lindsay looks right as the nasally challenged hero but the production is too bustling to give enough room to the full poignancy of his fate
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm, 180mins.

◪ **THE DEEP BLUE SEA.** Penelope Wilton the victim of unsatisfactory men in Rattigan's well-staged but so old-fashioned drama
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm 140mins

☐ **THE GIFT OF THE GORGON.** Blazing performance by Judi Dench in combat with Michael Pennington in Peter Shaffer's RSC success tackling the themes of justice and terrible revenge
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 3pm. 165mins

☐ **HAY FEVER** Maria Aitken and John Standing give their final performances in Coward's comedy.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Tonight-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm. Closes Saturday

☐ **THE HOUSE OF YES** Unnerving black comedy: members of an incestuous family house are obsessed with the death of President Kennedy
Gate, 11 Pembridge Street, W11 (071-229 0706). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. 80mins.

■ **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST** Maggie Smith commands the brittle world of lost handbags in this elegant revival. With Alec Jennings, Richard E. Grant, Margaret Tyzack.
Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 160mins

NEW RELEASES

◆ **ACCIDENTAL HERO** (15) Promising satire on hero worship, marred by a grating Dustin Hoffman performance and a director (Stephen Frears) not in total control. Starring Andy Garcia, Geena Davis
MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **West End** (0426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

◆ **BODY OF EVIDENCE** (18) Predatory murder suspect Madonna hooks defence lawyer Willem Dafoe Silly, sleazy attempt to rival *Basic Instinct.* Director, Uli Edel
MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426 915683) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

DUST DEVIL (18) Hitch-hiking devil (Robert Burke) stalks the defenceless in Namibia's desert. Pretentious British mish-mash of other people's movies from style-conscious director Richard Stanley.
Scala (071-278 0051)

CURRENT

◆ **FOREVER YOUNG** (PG) Test pilot frozen for 50 years awakes and searches for true love. Endearing old-fashioned fantasy, with Mel Gibson, Jamie Lee Curtis. Director, Steve Miner
MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **MGM Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

INDOCHINE (12) Love in a hot climate. A trite plot but Catherine Deneuve and gorgeous images carry the day. Director, Régis Wargnier
Curzon West End (071-439 4805) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666)

◆ **LEAP OF FAITH** (PG) Steve Martin's evangelical conman finds his match in drought-stricken Texas. Hard-going drama, with Debra Winger, Liam Neeson. Director, Richard Pearce
MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Plaza** (071-437 1234/497 9999) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

◆ **ONE FALSE MOVE** (18). Excellent rural film noir from director Carl Franklin. Bill Paxton as the Arkansas sheriff faced with two fleeing drug dealers and a tantalising moll. With Cynda Williams, Billy Bob Thornton.
Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Metro** (071-437 0757) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666) **Screen on the Green** (071-226 3520).

ORLANDO (PG). Virginia Woolf's exuberant novel about a free spirit (Tilda Swinton) who lives for 400 years, changing sex en route: filmed with great aplomb by British director Sally Potter.
Barbican (071-638 8891) **Gate** (071-727 4043) **Lumière** (071-836 0691) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Screen on the Hill** (071-435 3366).

THE OX (12) A stark family tragedy from 1660s Sweden, beautifully recounted by director Sven Nykvist. Stellan Skarsgard and Ewa Froling as the luckless couple.
Chelsea (071-351 3742/3743) **Renoir** (071-837 8402)

THE QUINCE TREE SUN (U). Spanish artist Antonio López strives to capture a quince tree on canvas. Victor Erice's magical meditation on art and nature.
Renoir (071-837 8402)

THE SILENT TOUCH (15). Music student Lothaire Bluteau helps rejuvenate crusty composer Max von Sydow. Fetching comic fable about music and love's regenerative powers from *Krzysztof Zanussi*
Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865)

◆ **SPLITTING HEIRS** (12): Eric Idle seeks to retrieve his dukedom from American usurper Rick Moranis. Lamentable British comedy, with Barbara Hershey, Catherine Zita Jones. Director, Robert Young.
Empire (071-437 1234/497 9999) **MGM Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

USED PEOPLE (12): Will Jewish widower Shirley MacLaine accept Marcello Mastroianni's advances? Queasy comedy romance. Director, Beeban Kidron
Barbican (071-638 8891) **Camden Parkway** (071-267 7034) **Odeons: Haymarket** (0426 915353) **Kensington** (0426 914666) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-935 2772).

WIND (PG) Carroll Ballard's visually luxurious but water-logged drama about the America's Cup race. With Matthew Modine, Jennifer Grey
Plaza (071-437 1234/497 9999)

FESTIVAL

THE OLDIE FILM FESTIVAL: The festival opens tonight (8.30pm) with a screening of *Genevieve,* prior to which Barry Norman interviews Larry Adler who composed and played the film's music. Most screenings will be preceded by an interview of an original cast member; interviewees include John Howard Davies, Ken Loach, David Tomlinson, Eric Ambler, Ian Carmichael and Roy Boulting. Dorothy Tutin and Edward Fox.
Everyman, Hollybush Vale, Hampstead (advanced bookings, 071-435 1525), tonight-Sun

OPERA: Superb performances sweep away any doubts about a Royal Opera Janáček revival

Religion, a double-edged sword

Jenůfa
Covent Garden

DONALD COOPER



Kostelnička (Anja Silja, left), one of the greats; Jenůfa (Nancy Gustafson), beautifully sung, but a little prim

YURI LYUBIMOV has returned to revive his Royal Opera production of Janáček's opera, which looks as disciplined and sharp as it did when new in 1986. Not everyone will respond to its perhaps over-insistent religious imagery, the rather twee delineation of the passing of the seasons, or the determinedly choreographic treatment of certain key episodes. Lyubimov's epic staging could scarcely be more different from the naturalistic Lehnhoff version in the Glyndebourne repertory, yet it packs just as powerful a punch: we are lucky to have both.

The way so much of the action is played around the child's grave at the front of the stage certainly concentrates the mind, and given the news from Texas in Tuesday's papers the Kostelnička's line as she seeks to justify to herself the murder of Jenůfa's baby, "he will go to God without knowing anything", set off some chilling vibrations. In that context the religious imagery is decidedly double-edged.

But the strength of the evening lies in the extraordinary intensity of the *central performances.* Anja Silja's body is as expressive as that of a dancer — the ramrod back, the set of head on shoulders, the tellingly spare use of gesture, all make her Kostelnička one of the great operatic interpretations of the day. If her tone spreads and sharpens under pressure, so be it: anyone can sing, you feel, but to few is granted the gift of giving a performance of such rounded emotional and physical completeness.

Similarly, Jan Blinkhof's burly Laca radiates a Vickers-like aura of tarnished probity: the body language, again, says it all before he has even opened his mouth. When he does so, the stream of easy heroic tone is as impressive as ever; equally so on this occasion was his soft singing — "You must have noticed how much I love her", sung in an awed whisper, laid bare the man's soul — made possible by the conducting, of which more below.

Beside these two, Nancy Gustafson's beautifully sung Jenůfa seemed a little prim, more the part-time schoolmarm than the sensualist who has risked all for a fling with Steva, the small-town rouer (Arthur Davies, excellent).

The Czech conductor Jiří Kout, stepping in from the start of rehearsals for an indisposed David Atherton, gives a highly individual reading, one unlike anything we have heard here before, but not unlike what you might hear in Brno or Prague. The textures are translucent, the level of volume is generally low, the pacing unhurried, and the lyrical sheen to the sound free of any hint of south-of-the-Alps soupiness, all of which allows the cast *to sing — and the orchestra to play —* with unusual expressiveness. You are constantly reminded of the young Janáček's closeness to, and admiration for, Dvořák. Let that not suggest any lack of theatrical excitement: where appropriate, the brass snarls, the high strings bite, the cross rhythms set the nerve-ends jangling; there is wonderful energy to the first-act dances, and the *headlong impetus achieved in the* short third act is the real thing. This is outstanding Janáček conducting, and not to be missed.

RODNEY MILNES

NEW YORK RECITAL

Generous helpings of largess from a diva

Jessye Norman
Carnegie Hall

WHEN James Levine accompanied Christa Ludwig in a triumphant farewell recital at Carnegie Hall last month, at the interval several colleagues were heard to ask, "Who is there to take her place?" In a recital of French and German songs with the same accompanist, on the same stage, Jessye Norman gave at least a partial answer to this question. The voice has grown in flexibility while losing none of its phenomenal power and colouristic range; yet the most salient impression made by this recital was that Norman now seems content to communicate with the audience, not simply overwhelm it.

In Berg's Seven Early Songs, she was positively intimate, certainly not a word that would have been used to describe her recitals here in the past. Gone, or at least toned down, was the exaggerated diction — the German more German than the Germans, the French more French than the French. Her performance of Ravel's *Shéhérazade* is a much finer thing now than it was 14 years ago when she recorded it: on this occasion she allowed the mystery to emanate from the poetry like smoking incense, never breaking the spell by interposing her own personality between the piece and the audience.

It was in the Ravel, particularly, that James Levine revealed his exquisite sensitivity as an accompanist. His technique was near-flawless and his dynamic power and control impressive, yet these skills were always at the service of the singer and the song. The Met's artistic director seems to be taking a greater interest in accompaniment these days; one wishes he would take the plunge and perform a solo piano recital.

There is a but: although Norman's *power to create a fully formed world in* song has emerged as a mighty force, she still seems incapable of the light touch. She closed the recital with "Nichts", a bauble by Richard Strauss, and while it was not quite heavy-handed it lacked the gaiety that Christa Ludwig, for example, would have brought to it. But that is picking a nit: when it comes to making the large statement, among the singers now before the public Jessye Norman is unexcelled.

JAMIE JAMES

LONDON CONCERTS: Contrasts continue in the South Bank's 'Alternative Vienna' season

Personal opinions

LPO/Welser-Möst
Festival Hall

A NEW angle on Franz Welser-Möst's notion of an "Alternative Vienna" revealed itself unintentionally on Tuesday night, just as his other South Bank series, "Schubert", was drawing to an end. This was Schubert, all right: or was it? This time, it was Schumann's protégé, Joseph Joachim, who was to offer the alternative, by orchestrating the Sonata in C which Schubert wrote for piano duet (known as the Grand Duo), and thereby turning it into a symphony.

Scholars and performers, from Schumann to the conductor Raymond Leppard (who has himself orchestrated the work) have argued for and against the idea that it was either an arrangement of a lost symphony or, at least, a study for the Great C Major. Welser-Möst *and the London Philharmonic* seemed pretty convinced by Joachim's creative re-interpretation in its own right. There were times, though, particularly in a severe Andante and a rather beefily played Scherzo when the scoring sounded (even if it was not) a little bottom-heavy, and the strings over-starkly polarised.

There have been performances of more light and grace, too, of Nicholas Maw's *Spring Music* which began the evening. Now, almost ten years old, Maw's 15-minute work, something between a Rite and a Rustle of spring, has become a repertoire piece. And no wonder, for its taut craftsmanship, gently flowering melodies and ubiquitous sense of flickering, fluttering life make it an irresistible overture. The LPO emphasised its clarity of idea and texture at the expense of its momentum, of that "Force that through the green fuse drives the flower" which is quoted at the head of the score.

The most memorable music making of the evening was **Anne-Sophie Mutter's** Sibelius Violin Concerto. The work is now so deeply under her skin *and inside her nervous system that it* seems at times as if she is composing it herself. In some performances the sheer technical struggle can create its own thrill: by contrast, in Mutter's performance — which now seems almost effortless — it is the extraordinary anguish and exhilaration, which surface in their fullness only when the technical struggle is overcome, that hits the listener between the ears and the eyes.

HILARY FINCH

Decorous but fun

Ensemble Modern/Cerha
Festival Hall

THE first work in the "Alternative Vienna" concert of the German group Ensemble Modern was not one of the so-called "Third Viennese School" of Gruber and Schwertsik, but firmly of the Second Viennese School. Leopold Spinner's *Passacaglia,* though receiving its British premiere, dates from the 1930s, and is a model of the Schoenbergian 12-note method of composition. Not only is it full of subtle nuances of timbre, creating a refined, translucent texture, but it is also delightfully genial: one variation is in tango rhythm, another a waltz. Ensemble Modern gave an account as good-humoured as it was precise.

The conductor was Friedrich Cerha, best known in this country for his completion of Berg's *Lulu.* He has a severe, *professorial exterior, but a* warm, charismatic nature is easily discernible in a work like his *Phantasiestück In C's Manier,* also receiving its first British performance. The eponymous "C" is both Jacques Callot, whose 17th-century engravings were one of the work's inspirations, and Cerha himself. It is a teasing piece, in more elaborate textures than the Spinner piece, but still evocatively beautiful ones. It was all sensitively done, with superbly sustained solo cello playing by Michael Stirling.

Something of Cerha's complexity was also evident in Ligeti's Piano Concerto, in its extended five-movement version. After a wide-ranging first movement, eclectic in inspiration and vivacious in expression, the eccentricities of the slow second movement are more ambivalent. The eerie sounds produced by flute, bassoon, trumpet, whistles and mouth organs, suggest a rather bleaker landscape. Ueli Wiget, a resourceful soloist, found the right touch of whimsy.

Ligeti's place in the programme was justified as an adopted Austrian. *Christian Schedlmayer,* born in Graz in 1959, is a former pupil of Cerha and an extremely self-critical one: only four of his works have so far been released for public performance. One of them is the string quintet *zeit. an der randern der dinge. stille . . .* (time, on the margins of things, silence . . .), an exquisitely refined piece whose fragmentary utterance eventually attains a measure of coherence, though the process is tantalisingly drawn out.

BARRY MILLINGTON

ENTERTAINMENTS

CINEMAS

CURZON MAYFAIR Curzon St. 071 465 8865 Max Von Sydow, Sarah Miles in **THE SILENT TOUCH** (15) Progs 1.45 (not Sat), 4.00, 6.15 & 8.30 Ends Sunday

CURZON PHOENIX Phoenix St, off Charing Cross Rd. 071 867 1044 **HOWARDS END** (PG) Progs at 2.30, 5.15 & 8.05 Winner of 3 Oscars including Best Actress Emma Thompson & Winner Best Film BAFTA Awards 1993

CURZON WEST END Shaftesbury Ave W1 071 439 4805 Catherine Deneuve in **INDOCHINE** (12) Progs at 1.20, 4.50 & 7.45 Academy Award Winner Best Foreign Language Film

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Don't meddle with the meddlers

The RSC's Stephen Jeffreys takes issue with Benedict Nightingale's recent charge that he has interfered with the integrity of a neglected 17th-century play

A strange flapping noise spread through the bar of the Swan Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon during the interval. It was the press night last year of my adaptation of Richard Brome's *A Jovial Crew*, and the critics were frisking each other in the hope of finding a copy of the original play. The word went out that Nicholas de Jongh was in possession of the goods and the *Evening Standard*'s critic attracted many browsers before the Act II bell sounded. The chaps were in a tizz and it was easy to see why.

Over the years our drama critics had grown accustomed to the Sin of Nunn (transposition of any Shakespeare play to, say, the glittering decadence of 8th-century Helsinki) and had even evinced some toleration of Barton's Felony (the insertion of connecting slabs of newly written blank verse when welding two or more plays together). These crimes had all been committed against well-known works — anyone could tell what had been tampered with, and in any case, there would be another *Merchant of Venice* along in a minute.

When the *Jovial Crew* reviews appeared, the charge sheet against me bore the outlines of a new offence: knowingly interfering with a totally neglected play in such a manner that the jury could not decide what was written in 1641 and what over yesterday's breakfast. Clearly the offence still rankles. Last week, shortly before the play's London opening, Benedict Nightingale made a pre-emptive strike on this page, in which he attacked me for meddling with the original.

Well, *A Jovial Crew* is certainly an original and fascinating play, but a classic it ain't. For an audience in 1993 it presents insuperable problems: real begging is in evidence on our streets all the time, and Brome's literary beggars strike a distasteful note: the play's topical satire has become incomprehensible; the central dramatic problem is resolved too quickly and the second half falls apart, sustained only by some running gags.

> 'A Jovial Crew is certainly an original play, but a classic it ain't'

The play's stage history (or lack of it) bears me out. Its first run in 1641 was interrupted by the outbreak of the civil war. After it was panned by Pepys, *A Jovial Crew* did achieve popularity — but as an operetta (*more meddlers*). The play has not been produced in this country since Charles Lamb's revival in 1819. The consensus of the professional theatre for the past 200 years is that the play will not stand up on its own.

But Nightingale has spotted a further offence: the spurious politicising of the play evidenced by "earnest new references to 'these uncertain times'" and the introduction of a play within a play called "Utopia" or "The Beggar's Commonwealth". Yet Brome's third line invokes "these sad and tragic days", and the Utopia play is Brome's idea:

Poet: I would present a Commonwealth: Utopia with all her branches and consistencies... I would have the country, the city and the court be at great variance for superiority. Then would I have Divinity and Law stretch their wide throats to appease and reconcile them: then would I have the soldier cudgel them all together and overtop them all. Stay, yet I want another person... A beggar... He must at last overcome the soldier and bring them all to beggar's hall.

What is this about if not the impending civil war? Yet Nightingale accuses me of dragging in a political dimension to "remind the audience of the egalitarian upheavals of the Cromwellian era". Martin Butler, the acknowledged expert in the drama of the 1632-42 period, goes further in identifying the political strain in Brome. He calls *A Jovial Crew* "a profoundly historical play, giving vigorous expression to the most central preoccupations of its time, and painfully sensitive to the uniqueness of the moment at which it was being performed".

Brome strangely backs away from having his beggars present the carefully planted Utopia play and substitutes a conventional and improbable ending, involving long-lost children and multiple marriages. My view is that grown-ups will not happily sit through such skimble-scamble stuff when they have been promised something interesting, so I take Brome's original idea and see it through.

Nightingale claims my ending "very nearly turns Brome into a 20th-century socialist" because one of the daughters, fired by Utopian visions, remains with the begging crew. But this view perpetrates the fallacy that the action of one character sums up the whole play, when in fact a spectrum of different actions is simultaneously presented. At the end of my version, the begging crew divides, one faction pursuing the idea that all advances in society are based on domestic security, the other restlessly seeking freedom "out there" on the road. This split attempts to dramatise Brome's wider theme: at some time in our lives we all choose between security and danger.

Nightingale's final point, that by reinventing the past to reflect our concerns we risk losing touch with reality, does not convince me. When we read or direct or act *A Jovial Crew*, we reinvent the text through the eyes of our own age. The *Jovial Crew* of 1641 is not available to us.

I cannot make Nightingale like my version of *A Jovial Crew*, but I would submit that no theatre in the country would have mounted *A Jovial Crew* as it is, warts and all. I would also like him to take into account the audiences who packed the Swan last year and thrilled to the production. And why is it only British classics which merit this protective concern? Most critics welcomed the going-over that Tom Stoppard gave to Johann Nestroy's *Einen Jux Will Er Sich Machen* when he turned it into *On the Razzle*. Is adapting foreigners OK?—

- A Jovial Crew *opens tonight at the Barbican Pit (071-638 8891)*
- *"Revival or Renewal" is the subject of next week's* Times Theatre Forum. *See below left.*



SHEILA BURNETT

A jovial riposte: Stephen Jeffreys defends his adaptation of Brome's work as a way of making the original 1641 play accessible to a modern audience

THEATRE: **Benedict Nightingale** thinks Martin Crimp has been curdled by New York

A poke in the eye

The Treatment
Royal Court

IN 1991 the Royal Court sent the British dramatist Martin Crimp to New York to refresh his creative juices. To judge by this play, he has come back with them drastically curdled. In his Manhattan, blind cabbies ask their fares to tell them if the lights are red or green as they weave their way to Central Park, minor scores are settled with a sharpened fork to the eyeballs, and even the sighted find it hard to focus on reality. It is a mad, bad place with, it seems, a curious need for more and better ophthalmologists, of both the real and the figurative kind.

The Treatment mainly involves Jen and Andrew, a couple of loveless "facilitators" putting together a movie about an abused wife, Anne. It seems that her average-seeming husband likes to tie her up, tape over her mouth and then harangue her about the beauty of the world. But this true-life tale does not appeal either to the star actor to whom the film-packagers turn or to the feminist aide they grudgingly ask for comment. Inevitably, the movie that hits the screens has little to do with its original subject, though how it is bowdlerised and sanitised we are left to guess.

Compare Crimp's satire of the exploitation industry with such native efforts as Shepard's *Angel City* or Mamet's *Speed-the-Plow*, and it is clear that it could be sharper and more penetrating. There are other parts of his play, too, that could be more thoroughly explored. For instance, Larry Pine's Andrew brusquely seduces Jacqueline Defferary's Anne, only to fall for her in a way and to a degree that both he and we seem supposed to take seriously. The human cod turns out to have warm blood, after all. But how can we believe it, given the sardonic thrust of Lindsay Posner's production, not to mention Pine's splendidly fishy performance?

The Treatment suffers from uncertainties of tone and aim — and yet there is one respect in which it knows its mind. The oddities of New York clearly fascinate Crimp. Like many of those not doomed to live there permanently, he is half in love with its dangers and its craziness. Suddenly he introduces a conversation between an over-the-hill playwright, reduced to selling the family china on the street, and a young philistine, who robustly tells him that he "won't pay good money to sit in the dark and be told that the world is an unweeded garden". And suddenly that little encounter is interrupted by a raging cop, who claims to have found the body of a Chinese boy in a car boot. Crimp's play is most alive when he gives eccentricity and outrageousness its head.

Several of Posner's cast could be more unsettled and unsettling. Even Defferary, emotionally erratic though her Anne is, fails quite to transform herself into what's wanted, a Regan urging Gloucester to put out a harmless old man's second eye and, when he hesitates, doing it herself. But one performer never falters. Was there ever a New Yorker as blithely and brassily pushy as Sheila Gish's Jen? Having met many such lady crustacea, I can tell you. No.

DONALD COOPER



Flashy: Sheila Gish is blithely and brassily pushy as Jen

THE TIMES
THEATRE FORUM
in association with
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA

REVIVAL OR RENEWAL?

WHICH WAY FORWARD FOR BRITISH THEATRE

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chief theatre critic of The Times

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One show you can't bank on

MORE revelations about the lavish expenditure deemed suitable by the directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on their new Bishopsgate headquarters. Invitations have gone out for the opening of a new loan exhibition of Sacred Arts Treasures of the State Museum of the History of Religion of St Petersburg, in the presence of the mayor of St Petersburg.

So at least the public will reap some benefit from all the money spent on the building? Ah, well no, not exactly: as the bank's rather confused press office explained, the exhibition will not actually be open to the public. It is being put on entirely for the management and staff of the bank, and strictly private.

Measuring up

THE combination of a hit Broadway director and an Oscar-winning actor sounds like just the recipe for success that the New York Shakespeare Festival was lacking during JoAnne Akalaitis's ill-fated tenure as artistic director. Her successor, George C. Wolfe, has chosen Michael Rudman, the long-time American expatriate who is now artistic director of Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, to direct *Measure for Measure* outdoors in Central Park this summer.

Measure for Measure will be Rudman's first New York assignment since he directed Dustin Hoffman in the critically acclaimed *Death of a Salesman* on Broadway in 1984. His Duke will be the festival's newly-appointed artistic associate, Kevin Kline, better known for his Oscar-winning performance in *A Fish Called Wanda*.

ARTS BRIEFING

● RENAISSANCE man Sir Peter Ustinov is spreading his talents yet again. This time the actor, producer, novelist, playwright and popular raconteur is to direct two operas as part of the Dresden Music Festival.

Ustinov is directing Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta* and Rachmaninov's *Francesca da Rimini*, to be performed at the Dresden Opera House from June 4-6.

This is not the first time that Sir Peter has turned his hand to opera directing. He began with a triple bill at Covent Garden in 1962: *L'Heure Espagnole*, *Erwartung* and *Gianni Schicchi*. More operas followed in Hamburg, Paris, Berlin, Milan and Salzburg, as well as at the Edinburgh Festival.

Last chance . . .

JONATHAN MILLER's English National Opera production of *The Mikado* has had a good run for its money since it was new seven years ago, and deservedly so. As well as being a quizzically sidelong glance at England's obsession with Gilbert and Sullivan as being as inseparable as Gilbert and George, it is a slick and witty show, played out in Stefanos Lazaridis's dazzlingly designed 1920s spa hotel. The final performance is at the Coliseum tomorrow (071-836 3161).



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Still Life at the Penguin Cafe. Photograph: Tim Stimpert

JAZZ: Bheki Mseleku at the QEH and Dardanelle at Pizza On The Park

When the soul loses its roots

NO DOUBTS as to the name of the most publicised musician in British jazz last year. The South African-born multi-instrumentalist **Bheki Mseleku** generated more copy than anybody since Courtney Pine, and his lavishly praised debut album, *Celebration*, duly made its way on to the shortlist of the pop industry's new Mercury Prize.

There is an aura of intense, almost monastic spirituality about him which makes a welcome change from the flock of Berklee-trained technocrats. Jazz desperately needs players with that intangible quality — soul.

All the same, *Celebration* turned out to be a collection of orthodox bop with only a faint trace of Mseleku's African roots. Though his solo recital at the South Bank was a much more personal affair, it still suggested that any transition to Keith Jarrett-style superstardom is some way off. *Meditations*, a new album, leaves much the same impression.

The evening began promisingly as Mseleku strolled on to the stage playing a mournful tenor saxophone cadenza. Once seated at the keyboard, he continued blowing quiet, broken phrases while adding alternating bass and treble chords with his right hand. Simple but atmospheric, the ebb and flow of notes was reminiscent of early Coltrane.

Once the saxophone was put to one side, the music became locked in a handful of rudimentary modal patterns, embellished by incantatory chanting and an occasional single-note run. Extra tonal colour came in an encore with the young kora player **Tunde Jegede**, who had performed in the support set.

At Pizza On The Park, the veteran Mississippi singer, pianist and vibes player **Dardanelle** ends her debut London residency on Saturday. A poll-winner in the 1940s, she abandoned jazz to raise a family before making a comeback at the 1980 Newport Jazz Festival. A genteel interpreter of the classic saloon repertoire, she had to contend with a bronchial infection during the early stage of her visit. With luck she will be in full flight for the last three nights, which are to be recorded for a live album.

CLIVE DAVIS

THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 22 1993

After the Holocaust: a German lawyer on Nazi crimes, Martin Gilbert on Jews, Jacobson's roots, war scruples

Just deserts at Nuremberg

Nicolas Becker was Erich Honecker's lawyer during the former East German dictator's abortive trial. Here he asks whether the Allies were right to try the Nazi leadership at Nuremberg

In 1950 Telford Taylor, the chief American prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials, claimed that the Allies had never considered shooting the Nazi leaders out of hand after their surrender, but always insisted upon a trial according to international law. Forty years later, Taylor has fortunately published a much more substantial book about the trials. From this one learns that Roosevelt and Churchill agreed at Quebec in 1944 to draw up a list of the principal Nazi criminals, who would be executed summarily.

The British list included Hitler, Goering, Goebbels, Himmler, Ribbentrop and Keitel. Admirals Raeder and Doenitz were also considered as candidates. Attlee wanted to add Franz von Papen, Hjalmar Schacht and several bankers and industrialists who had financed Hitler's rise to power.

That this plan was never carried out was due to one man, a man who was neither opposed in principle to bloodshed, nor had shown much attachment to the rule of law: Joseph Stalin. In October 1944, Churchill reported a conversation with Stalin to Roosevelt: "U[ncle] Joe] took an unexpectedly ultrarespectable line. There must be no executions without trial, otherwise the world would say we were afraid to try them." Roosevelt, says Taylor, was already regretting his assent to Churchill's proposal for summary execution; his successor, Truman, would not hear of such suggestions.

Instead, the Americans took up the project of an international military tribunal at a conference in London in July 1945, under the leadership of a Supreme Court judge, Robert H. Jackson, who had been granted leave for the purpose. Taylor portrays Jackson as a very stubborn, energetic and eloquent lawyer. Though not uncritical, for Taylor Jackson is the real hero of Nuremberg.

In London the main issue was the formulation of the charges, in particular the penalisation of aggressive war. Taylor shows that there was no agreement among the Allies that the unleashing of an aggressive war amounted to a crime. The far-sighted French and the Soviets did not want to treat aggressive war in general as an international crime. In their drafts, only the war begun by the Axis powers was to be punishable.

Jackson objected: "If certain acts of violation of treaties are crimes, they are crimes whether the United States does them or whether Germany does them, and we are not prepared to lay down a rule of criminal conduct against others which we would not be willing to have invoked against us." The Americans won the argument on this point, not least because Jackson repeatedly threatened to hold the trial before an American court martial if necessary. The US was not only the richest of the Allies, but also had the largest legal staff; besides, more than half the prominent Nazis were its prisoners.

THE ANATOMY OF THE NUREMBERG TRIALS
A Personal Memoir
By Telford Taylor
Bloomsbury, £25



Goering: faced with his crimes

In early summer 1945 there was as yet scarcely any evidence. It was a mammoth task to assemble the witnesses and documents needed for the prosecution within five months, working in a country and a language which were not their own. The Americans and British were helped by the many German émigrés in their ranks, and also by the excellent German documentation, which covered every crime in painstaking detail. Even so, the scale of the prosecutors' achievement can be gauged by the fact that four decades later the West German judicial system, though far better equipped, required more than 18 months to assemble a case against Erich Honecker and others on the comparatively limited charge of responsibility for the shootings at the Berlin Wall.

Taylor gives a detailed account of the trial of the principal war criminals which began in November 1945. The "trials" of his title is somewhat misleading, as he promises a further book on the 12 later trials, which were no less interesting. But he makes up for this with a psychologically and politically fascinating depiction of events inside and outside the courtroom. The accused and their counsel, the judges, and the rivalries between British and American prosecutors provide excellent close-ups. Even Goering's Texan guard, who was alleged to have helped him to commit suicide, is sketched in.

The Nuremberg trials have been subjected to much criticism, especially by Germans, as justice imposed by the victors. It is said that the judgments rested on laws promulgated only after the war by the prosecutors. The defence is said to have been unfairly disadvantaged. It would, critics say, have been better to leave the trials to the Germans. The Russians insisted on including the murder of 4,000 Polish officers at Katyn, even though they were themselves responsible for that massacre. The existence of the secret protocol of the Nazi-Soviet Pact was suppressed. Nobody was allowed to mention the Soviet attack on Finland. Discussion of the British plans to invade Norway was not allowed. The list of the accused is said to have been arbitrary, senior Nazi leaders were tried alongside insignificant ones, and so on.

Taylor concedes that some of these criticisms are justified, but for him these are trivial mistakes which do not diminish the standing of this tribunal. I believe that he is quite right about this, that Nuremberg was necessary and that it was right not to leave these trials to the Germans. Germany had not liberated itself from the Nazis by its own efforts, and the Germans were too deeply implicated in these crimes. Anyone familiar with the shamefully lenient treatment of Nazi criminals in the Federal Republic during the 1950s and 1960s must agree with the Allies' decision to hold the trials themselves.

In addition, those trials of former East German leaders which have taken place since German reunification demonstrate that the Germans obviously find difficulty in mounting a trial of great historical and political importance. These trials have been marred by the obscuring of historical context, denial of any political dimension on the part of the prosecution, and a pettifogging dishonesty.

At Nuremberg, by contrast, there were scenes which nobody will ever forget. The prosecution showed films in court which had never been seen before. Hans Frank, the terror of German-occupied Poland, wept with shame and fear. Goering wailed about this "awful film". Many of the accused could not bear the sight and averted their eyes.

Rudolf Hess, the commandant of Auschwitz, confirmed that from 1941 to December 1, 1943, in his camp alone 2.5 million people had been murdered in the gas chambers and a further 500,000 had died of starvation and disease. Incredibly, this defence witness had been summoned by counsel for Ernst Kaltenbrunner.

One witness for the prosecution was Otto Ohlendorf, a 38-year-old SS brigadier, trained as a lawyer, intelligent, self-assured, by no means brutal-looking. He reported with cool precision how in southern Russia a single *Einsatzgruppe* (death squad) under his command had, with the connivance of the military authorities, liquidated 90,000 Jews and so-called communist commisars. This shattered the legend of how the German army had kept its hands clean.

In general, the judgments were just and necessary. The fact that after Nuremberg no international criminal law with its own permanent court emerged is depressing, especially in view of events such as those in Bosnia. A great book!

Nicolas Becker is a Berlin attorney. At Nuremberg his father, Hellmuth Becker, defended Ernst von Weizsäcker, head of the foreign ministry under Hitler and father of President Richard von Weizsäcker.



Willy Georg, a German, spent a day in Warsaw in 1941 recording this boy and other ghetto Jews for posterity (*In the Warsaw Ghetto: Summer 1941*, edited by Rafael Scharf, Robert Hale, £29.95)

Schism in the making

Martin Gilbert

PIETY AND POWER
The World of Jewish Fundamentalism
By David Landau
Secker & Warburg, £20

The Jewish religion, once the private bailiwick of its adherents, has for some time been under public scrutiny. Television images of orthodox Jews protesting at something offensive to their religious sensitivities have become commonplace. The massed ranks of the black-hatted faithful have become a media cliché.

As David Landau shows, there are many varieties of Jewish orthodoxy. His book focuses on the Hasidic dynasties that emerged from late medieval Poland, and which are today a small but integral, and vociferous part of the variegated life of Israel. He also describes the oriental-Jewish equivalent that flourishes in modern Israel. Jews whose spiritual mentors were the sages and holy men of Morocco less than half a century ago. They too have emerged on the political scene as active and decisive participants, with a political and a religious agenda.

The book has a purpose: to alert its readers to what the author sees as the forthcoming conflict in the Jewish world, which he calls "an irreversible explosion that will split the Jewish people in two". The Hasidic sects, he argues, do not flinch from that prospect. Others do not understand its imminence. Israel is the scenario. Orthodoxy has become more strident, an attitude dictated by the ultra-orthodox rabbis. The non-orthodox are moving away, "leftwards". Orthodox hostility towards mainstream secular Jewish practice, and non-orthodox converts, is leading to "a schismatic crisis".

Israeli secular politics have certainly been plunged into turmoil from time to time by the emergence of religious pressures, not least the decisive support given to Yitzhak Shamir and the Likud party at a moment of political crisis in March 1990. It is this crisis with which the book opens and perhaps the catalyst that caused it to be written. Shamir is now a figure of the past. The Labour party, against which the religious fervour of March 1990 was so virulent and so detrimental, is now in power, sustained by an electorate that did not want to be manipulated by religious leaders.

The scenario of an orthodox political stranglehold is in abeyance. Over the past forty years, adaptability, and drawing back from the brink of religious-secular confrontation, has proved to be an integral part of the ethos of the new state.

A recent and transforming factor is the influx of almost half a million Jews from the former Soviet Union. While a few Russian Jews were motivated to return not only to Israel, but to Judaism, under the influence of orthodox religious emissaries from the West, the majority were totally secular, ignorant of even the minimal religious traditions, and sustained in the remaking of homes and careers by the secular aspects of Israeli society, including a Ministry of Absorption now headed by a member of the main political party to the left of Labour. Even in terms of absolute numbers, the presence of the new Russians dilutes the author's warnings, and may have averted what he sees as an apocalyptic clash of equally balanced and totally conflicting wills.

Landau also describes how the moods of Jewish religious conflict exist in confrontational form in Britain. He quotes a leading orthodox intellectual, Jonathan Sacks, who before taking up office as Chief Rabbi in September 1991, stressed that "the existence of non-orthodox Jewish denominations" was a contradiction in terms. Yet, in Britain as in Israel, the forces for dialogue are making headway. Sacks himself is in favour of trying to bridge the religious divide, an example of what Landau calls his "ecumenical exuberance".

While maintaining and even strengthening the (for him) uniquely correct way of orthodoxy, Sacks has shown himself deeply conscious of the needs of a broader consensus, in what, for Britain, is a diminishing Jewish numerical base. The Muslim, Hindu and Sikh communities in Britain are now all larger than the Jewish community, which not so long ago outnumbered all of them together. If this book helps to stimulate co-operation within the Jewish spectrum in Britain, by stressing the potential harm of doctrinal conflict, it can do nothing but good.

From Adam's fall to Howard's end

Natasha Fairweather

ROOTS SCHMOOTS
Journeys Among Jews
By Howard Jacobson
Viking, £16.99

Howard Jacobson spent much of his childhood nurturing the conviction that he could not really be Jewish. He might look Jewish, but he certainly did not feel it. Therefore, he concluded with exultant childish logic, he must have been switched at birth. Middle age made him start to feel "aggressively rootsie". Once sensitised to the subject everything began to assume a Jewish perspective for this fully assimilated and passionately secular writer. So he decided to embark on a Jewish journey, not with the intention of strengthening his sense of belonging to the tribe, "but rather with the much more voluptuous expectation of repossessing nothing", and the more practical aim of producing a book in tandem with a television documentary.

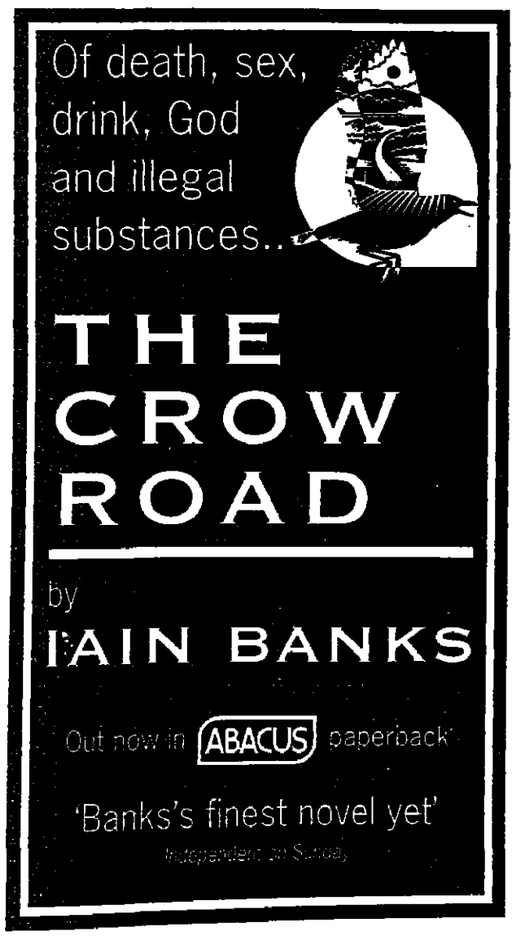
So begins *Roots Schmoots*, which is a long and self-indulgent account of Jacobson's journey in vague pursuit of contemporary Jewishness. His travels take him from Llandudno holidaying with Hasidic relatives, to America's various shrines to alternative visions of Judaism, to Israel where it all began, ending finally with a visit to Lithuania from whence his maternal ancestors fled to Manchester at the turn of the century.

Jacobson at his best is a fine comic writer with an acute eye for dissecting social pretension, and a dexterous ability to put words on the rack and wring humour from their contortions. In *Roots Schmoots* the reader is too little exposed to Jacobson's satirical wit. Instead, we are fed a diet of querulous, but ultimately lacklustre, social commentary as the narrative aimlessly meanders around the subject. Often the jokes seem cheap.

Two-thirds of the book is devoted to the American leg of the trip, even though Jacobson has no personal connection with American Jewry and admits that he only went there because the project was already under way and it felt safer out west than in the self-combusting Soviet Union. This section suffers most acutely from the need for editing. It is all too easy for Jacobson, armed with European arrogance, to mock the Barbra Streisand school of sentimental Jewishness. But he never stops to question why American Jews have felt the need to explore such a bewildering range of ways in which to connect with their ethnic roots; he is too busy disassociating himself from the whole lot of them.

The narrative regains some of its gusto once Jacobson experiences the emotional frisson of arriving in Israel for the first time. His critical eye sharpens as he finds his secular-liberal certainties challenged in his search for someone or something to admire in the Jewish state. This is the nation which has made the desert bloom, so why then is the Red Sea resort of Eilat full of "dead earth, strangled vegetation, and what looks like the murder weapon — the length of rubber hose"? Nonetheless, criticism from outsiders makes him instantly defensive.

All this is confusing stuff, but Jacobson seems reluctant to go beyond superficial observation and make sense of where this intense exposure to alternative visions of Jewish life leaves him. The reader is forced to conclude that he is none the wiser.



But slay, and slay, and slay

The present conflict in Bosnia is a terrible reminder, not so much of the abiding horror of war (which is universally understood), but of the inadequacy of "civilisation" to cope with violence other than by joining it. Baroness Thatcher famously entered the fray last week, denouncing western statecraft as an accomplice to the Bosnian slaughter. Daniel Pick, in his timely new study of how war came to be justified in the 20th century, provides a hundred reasons why no country should ever get involved in fighting, each of which would be music to the ears of Douglas Hurd.

For Pick, war is nasty, brutish and, all too often, long. The technology is frightening. Civilian populations are inevitably among the casualties. The conflicts themselves are not always resolved. The list could go on and on. Pick's analysis concentrates on the emergence of modern warfare between the American civil war and the first world war, and unfortunately makes few references to more recent conflicts.

Quoting Franco Fornari, the Italian psychoanalyst, he reminds us that "the language of war in the 19th century frequently focused on war's symbolic function in the construction of identities, borders and boundaries". But, Fornari argues, beneath the surface rationales, the real aim is to externalise an enemy through a manoeuvre "which transforms this terrifying but ultimately unaffrontable entity into an external, flesh and blood adversary who can be faced and killed".

In our own day, the Serbs, locked into this way of thinking, and impelled, it seems, by "psychotic forces", are clearly determined to wade through as much blood as it takes to establish their identity, borders and boundaries. The only thing that will stop them is an irresistible opponent.

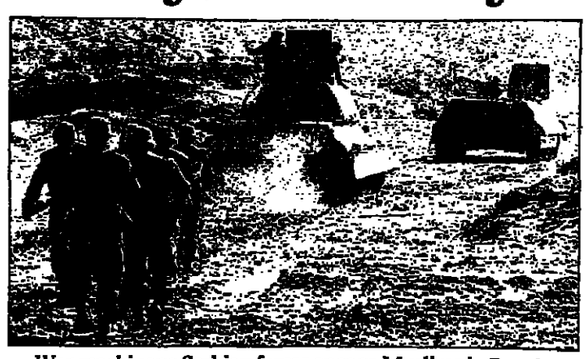
Pick —who nowhere spells out this logic— is well aware of the risks of conflict. He conveys one image of war as "the unstoppable and all-consuming machine, the runaway vehicle, the horse that rides its rider; of war even as the unconscious of progress; the driving force which does not recognise the word 'no' and which, ultimately, cannot be fully repressed: which breaks through illusory order, the surface world of 'progress' or 'decadence' and its attendant 'diplomacies'; which slips through in the interstices of everyday national life."

One can well imagine the Foreign Secretary weighing such considerations. His reticence is understandable. Its inappropriateness is that it offers no hope to the victims whose suffering enters our living rooms each evening like newsreels from the Warsaw Ghetto.

Clausewitz, an honourable, but impossibly remote figure, saw war as an evolving science, mainly of concern to its practitioners, subordinated to political imperatives. Pick, in a comprehensive but sometimes frustratingly objective analysis, takes us through the various stages by which that view has been replaced by others infinitely more cynical, to the point where virtually anything goes in the pursuit of national ends.

It is a bad business. The question, though, remains: once the killing of innocents has begun, is it possible to stand aside, or must any decent people and any decent government take up arms and stop it? Were British troops to be sent in force to Bosnia, a number of them would undoubtedly be killed. Others would be wounded, some of them terribly. There would be sorrowful funerals, in which grieving mothers would ask why it was that their sons had died for a distant community of strangers.

Yet fighting and, if necessary, dying in a proper cause is in the nature of soldiering. That is why we have armies. For the diplomacy of national interest to triumph over an acknowledged moral obligation is surely to deny Britain's fighting men — and women — the role for which they are expertly equipped, and indeed the dignity of their calling. In these latter days of appeasement, we are wringing our hands even before the bells have sounded. Our leaders prefer the guilt to the dark work that assuredly has to be done.



War machinery: Serbian forces engage Muslims in Bosnia

Walter Ellis

WAR MACHINE
The Rationalisation of Slaughter in the Modern Age
By Daniel Pick
Yale University Press, £19.95

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Pricking the British conscience

Ronald Payne finds the account of John McCarthy's hostage ordeal and Jill Morrell's campaign stronger on detail than deeper understanding, but admires their decency

SOME OTHER RAINBOW
By John McCarthy and Jill Morrell
Bantam, £14.99

Like a latter-day Candide, John McCarthy set out on his first journey to the Middle East full of cheerful wonder in the best of all possible worlds for a young journalist with a taste for adventure. Alas for him, after only a few weeks the ugly world of terrorism siphoned him up. An Islamic band owing allegiance to the Iranian revolution grabbed him on the airport road and held him in chains for five long years.

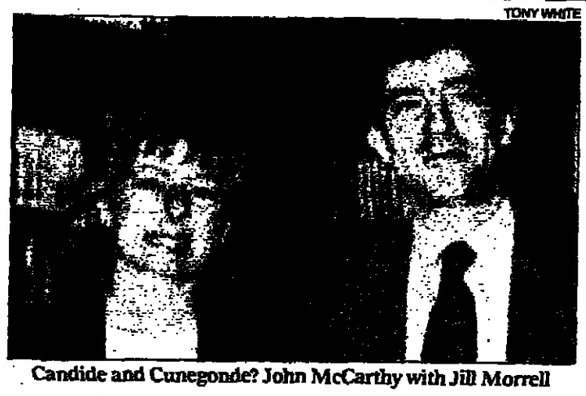
In the spring of 1986 Lebanon was still the great world centre of news excitement, a place of arms in the way that Bosnia is now. For McCarthy it was high excitement to be working for World Television News (WTN) while the regular man was on leave. In those dangerous times most of the big companies had reduced their staffs, so there was a better market for this comparatively small outfit. Here was the chance for a young desk man, less experienced and less wily than his professional colleagues in the field, to do a bit of everything and to make a name for himself.

The extraordinary thing about the book McCarthy has now written — in alternating chapters with Jill Morrell, the Penelope of the story — is that for his part he seems to remain in that state of enthusiastic innocence. Despite the beatings, the indignities and sufferings in the ghastly oubliettes of Beirut and the Bekaa valley, he kept on making jokes and creating his fantasies. What he did come to regret during a painful time of growing up was his lack of application at Haileybury and at Hull University, which might have provided a broader stock of knowledge to see him through the dismal hours of captivity.

He shared the horrors and privations with Brian Keenan, an Irish captive with a gift for words and philosophy. They managed to rail at each other and bait one another with national stereotypes — "wheedling Irish bastard" balanced by "shilling-taking British bastard". They were literally chained together. In the course of their long and close forced friendship they invented nicknames for the brutal guards and generally behaved like figures in one of those outdated PoW adventure stories.

Keenan acted out the rebel, while McCarthy played the reasonable mediator. The first meeting when Keenan, bearded and hairy was thrown into McCarthy's cell, set the tone: "F*** me!" said John. "It's Ben Gunn." When the Arab jailers began fixing chains his first reaction was to laugh and say they could not be serious. "They were. No humour could break this impermeable human ice," he writes with surprise. There we have a chasm of different worlds that no amount of office-like qualities could bridge in this atmosphere of virtual unreality.

TONY WHITE



Candide and Cunegonde? John McCarthy with Jill Morrell

The times of black despair do appear, even through the matter of fact prose of *Some Other Rainbow*. Despite the resilience of John McCarthy's decency and niceness, the suffering is plainly conveyed.

When finally in Damascus he emerged into the light again at the end of the great ordeal, there he was, bright and clear, still doing the decent thing, declaring that his captors had entrusted him with a diplomatic mission to present their letter of ridiculous demands to the UN secretary-general. He even refused to let anyone else read it. It took some time for him to realise that the Islamic kidnap bosses were simply exploiting him and the letter as a publicity stunt for their own ends.

The one left behind in London, Jill Morrell, the woman he had intended to marry, loyally helped to set up the Friends of John McCarthy organisation, dedicated to getting his release. In the process she became a successful lobbyist and achieved fame through her constant public and media appearances. I used to come across her around the TV studios, always optimistic, constantly urging action to free the prisoners and wondering why the FO was not doing more for the cause. Yet in her chapters of the book she admits some self-doubt. Was it all doing John any good?

Like him, she too became a celebrity. So it was natural that when John came home the good-looking young man and the attractive young woman became the nation's sweethearts. Millions who had followed their story wanted to see a happily-ever-after marriage. That has still not happened.

In a moment of soul searching Morrell asks herself, "Where did the past end and the future begin?" The saga continues and no doubt the book, long though it is and stronger on detail than on deep understanding, will become a bestseller. They deserve that after so much suffering. John, I suspect, will continue to be Candide: one can only hope that this really is the best of all possible worlds and that he will share it with Cunegonde.

Ronald Payne is a Middle East specialist and the author of several books on international terrorism.

Phantom forms of a master

Aisling Foster

GHOSTS
By John Banville
Secker & Warburg, £14.99

"Let me paint the scene, paint it as it was and not as it seemed, in washes of luminous grey on grey."

Ghosts is not an easy novel to penetrate, but it is as fascinating, complex, stimulating and enigmatic as any work of art. Painting is one of its motifs: Watteauesque to describe the happenchance blow-in of a group of day trippers to a remote Atlantic island off the south coast of Ireland; gloomily Vermeer in the house where they seek shelter with a retired Professor of Fine Art and his warty secretary; lit alternately by Piero della Francesca and Paul Henry in shimmering landscapes and boggy backdrops; set-piece Poussin and Pre-Raphaelite in images of angelic females.

Sharp photo-realism takes over for the main character, Freddie Montgomery: a psychopathic revenant from Banville's last novel, *The Book of Evidence*, now released from jail ten years on to add his own patchy and unreliable narrative to events.

As with the composition of some huge portrait, the author fills in the background first, beginning with his minor characters as they wade ashore from a beached pleasure cruiser. Their bright colours suggest ghosts from earlier Banville works: so, too, the shadowy figure of the Professor.

In the layering of present over past, violence is always a possibility, especially in the Pierrot-like visitor Felix, possessor of damaging secrets both sexual and professional. Repentance and reconciliation are also trailed, suggesting love and the preservation of innocence for the emblematic characters — predatory lesbian, hapless beauty, and little girl. Through them, Banville continues his examination of theories about chaos, human motive and the effect of the moment.

Yet each scene, as it is added, coloured and detailed, draws the reader on if not quite in. The narrator plays with our puzzlement — "here the plot does not so much thicken as coagulate" — so that despite the sensuous writing, which this author manipulates so consummately, there is a risk of losing a less tenacious reader before his main character finally emerges, halfway through the book.

At this point, a series of marvellous, freewheeling scenes build up and complete a work which proves Banville as a master, the artist in total control of his craft. At last, with Montgomery at the centre of the picture, everything falls into its proper place. The other characters can be seen for what they are, decorative, symbolic or individually important, like any figures painted into a crowd. At last it is possible to enjoy the wit and flirtatious ingenuity of the work, and, by the end of the novel, to return to the beginning and examine it all again. Definitely a desert island book.

Mystery guest at M. Manet's picnic in Eden

Rosanna De Lisle

ALIAS OLYMPIA
By Eunice Lipton
Thames & Hudson, £12.95

When Edouard Manet showed his *Olympia* at the salon of 1865, the response of the Parisian public was hostility and hilarity in roughly equal measure. It was not that late Second Empire France saw anything inherently scandalous or funny in a recumbent nude — Olympia's pose is very like that of Titian's *Venus of Urbino*. What shocked was the expression on her face: here was a woman not merely without clothes, but knowingly, unblushingly naked.

For its safety, the painting had to be re-hung, out of reach of the mob so keen to lynch it. Manet was ridiculed for his preposterous creation. His model, presumed a courtesan, was vilified: "... a woman on a bed, or rather some form or other blown up like a grotesque in india-rubber; a sort of monkey making fun of the pose and the movement of the arm of Titian's Venus, with a hand shamelessly flexed..."

"The most famous face and body of the nineteenth century," is how Eunice Lipton prefers to describe Victorine Meurent. This is not the first book inspired by Olympia, but Lipton, an American academic, claims a new angle. The purpose of *Alias Olympia* is to rescue Victorine from the ignominious reputation thrust upon her by conventional, male, art history.

Little is known about Victorine Meurent. She appears in nine of Manet's works (most famously, apart from *Olympia*, in *Le Déjeuner sur l'herbe* and *The Railway*). She had an exhibit of her own in the salon of 1879, coincidentally in the same room as Manet. By the turn of the century she was supposed to have died of alcoholism; she was painted as a slumped drunk by Norbert Goeneutte.

Such contradictions fired Eunice Lipton's curiosity. "But how was one to explain the competing images: a pathetic female character on the one hand, Manet's cocky, self-contained model on the other?" It is a good question and one that could lead to a serious discussion about women and art in general. But Lipton wants to go down a different road altogether.

Early on, by a leap of faith, the author commits herself to a view of Meurent as a serious artist and proto-feminist. More than her professional reputation is at stake: she admits she is "searching for a hero". A relentless, often frustrating, search through French and American archives unearths some new evidence — Meurent was a member of the Société des Artistes Français and lived to an old age — but it does not add up to a rounded portrait. In the absence of first-person sources, Lipton falls back on her imagination: Meurent "speaks" in long passages that are typographically, if not stylistically, distinct from the main narrative.

This is every bit as confusing as it sounds. Lipton's search for Meurent is her own voyage of self-discovery: "Each of us has looked for ourself in a woman from the past," she says of herself and a similarly besotted friend. The reader is dragged round countless libraries and plunged into the author's psyche.

We learn that she hated her mother and adored her father (who also hated the mother). Victorine is also furnished with ambivalent feelings about her mother. Lipton's first marriage was hollow; her second, to Ken, rewarding. Victorine is deemed a lesbian (Lipton finds the house she shared with a woman). One longs that Lipton would realise where she ends and Meurent begins. When someone calls her "Ms Psychoanalysis," it is not ironic.

Alias Olympia collapses under the weight of its contradictions. Parts of this book are lucid and serious; others are embarrassing. There are footnotes but no directions to them. The lack of plates is infuriating; even *Olympia* appears only in detail on the cover. The style invites sarcastic marginalia; the tone wobbles and grates, particularly on the subject of food and sex.

She dismisses everything that has previously been written about Victorine Meurent as "only projections and fantasies of middle-class men" — and then turns Meurent into her own fantasy. This is a book which is so self-absorbed and claustrophobic that, for all Lipton's well-meant efforts, Meurent remains in the shadows of art history.

Bridgeman/Louvre



Shocked by his nude depiction of Victorine Meurent among clothed men, the 1863 salon refused Manet's *Le Déjeuner sur l'herbe*

Nineteen years in the Chinese gulag

Violet Gwynne

LAOGAI
The Chinese Gulag
By Hongda Harry Wu
Westview Press, £11.95

Last month *The South China Morning Post* reported the President of the Supreme People's Procuratorate of China, Mr Liu Fuzhi, speaking thus: "We have to see with a sober mind that class struggle will exist over a long period of time within certain areas of our society because of domestic and international factors... 2.9 million people faced criminal charges during the last five years. A further 871,922 people were arrested for serious crimes, and 102,083 people arrested for taking part in crime syndicates... Counter-revolutionary activity, aimed at toppling the regime and endangering national security, has been cracked down on with the help of China's secret police."

In his recently published book, *Laogai*, Hongda Harry Wu shows us how to interpret Mr Liu's communist newspeak. In China today arrest is arbitrary, without legal procedures. There is no criminal code. And the "crimes" for which those millions were arrested have never been defined by law. The importance of this book lies in the fact that Wu documents for the first time the Chinese communist party's most closely guarded secret — the locations of 990 (out of approximately 5,000) "Labour Reform Camps".

With few exceptions it is not possible for the outsider to spot a Laogai because they appear from the outside no different from regular factories, farms or mining operations. Since so many of the products made within these camps are for international consumption, it is time that the international community — particularly the business community, who are investing heavily in China at present — became aware of what happens to those who are arrested and enter the Labour Reform System, known under an acronym reminiscent of the Soviet "Gulag": the "Laogai".

Wu, a political detainee, was sent into the Laogai for 19 years. He was born in Shanghai in 1937, the son of a local bank manager. Despite his bourgeois background, he was accepted by Beijing College of Geology in 1955, where he generally avoided politics. However, during the communist party's "Let A Hundred Flowers Bloom" movement, he was urged by a party secretary to offer a few criticisms of the party. Soon, along with thousands of intellectuals, he was labelled a counter-revolutionary rightist for his innocent remarks, arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment due to his "poor attitude" (refusal to admit guilt).

Wu was sent to 12 different Laogai. Then in 1979 Deng Xiaoping announced that the Anti-Rightist Movement had been "necessary", but perhaps exaggerated. Luckier than most, Wu was released. In 1985 he managed to obtain a passport to the United States, where he now lives.

Calmly and meticulously, Wu documents the ideology behind the complex structure of the camps and the cruel policing within them, which today hold between 16-20



Deng Xiaoping: grim legacy

million of the present Chinese population. The purpose behind the Laogai is not, as in prisons in Western democracies, to maintain order in society or to punish criminals in accordance with the law, but to protect and consolidate the party dictatorship. Through beating, torture, solitary confinement, "struggle" sessions and criticism meetings, where the inmates are expected to inform on each other, the individual is taught to return to Deng Xiaoping's four principles, based on the Maoist version of Marxism/Leninism.

The methods used to maximise production are carefully laid down. A definite daily quota must be met, otherwise the convict is guilty of "lazy work attitude". If people are unable to work due to sickness, the public security police take this as evidence that they are "work avoiders" and the already rationed food may be decreased or immediately cut off. Other sanctions include solitary confinement, handcuffs or foot shackles while not at work, sending convicts to mass education teams or calling meetings of the convicts' work group to criticise poor work attitude.

The camps form an integral part of the economic system of the country. There is virtually no product that is not manufactured in a Laogai. Wu produces a huge list of products sent for both the domestic and the international market. The most popular products for export are coffee, tea, spices, salt, cement, plastic, rubber, textiles, ceramics, glass, iron, steel, copper, lead, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, electric machinery, sound equipment and vehicles. All of these are produced by slave labour, in appalling conditions.

Once you enter a Laogai it is unlikely you will ever come out of the system. If you have endured the treatment and survived to be "released", your status as a displaced person ensures that you are then relocated to a Forced Job Placement Camp — a different name for roughly the same place. Take for example the camp, LRC No. 1 Detachment of Beijing, twice inhabited by Wu, and consisting of 80,000 prisoners. Some 15,000 of these prisoners fit the category of Forced Job Placement Personnel. Known as "ex-prisoners" they have a few minimal privileges, such as being allowed to be with their families (who must work in the camp). But they will all remain in the Laogai for life, and in turn their children will grow up to become workers on the farm.

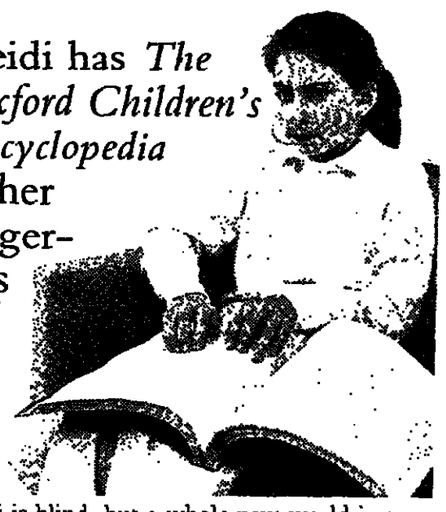
This book is aimed at three types of westerners. First, businessmen who may have entered into joint ventures with the Chinese, but have been unable to know until now which of the factories in the provinces where they operate are slave labour camps in disguise. Wu now remedies this lack with maps, photographs and documentation. It is to Volvo's credit that they refused a joint venture once they received information that their product was to be manufactured in a Laogai. Unfortunately the same cannot be said of the Sino-French joint venture with Remy Martin.

Secondly it concerns the consumer. Wu lists the hundreds of exported commodities with the code numbers of the camps which supply each product. Thirdly, the book is for intellectuals and politicians: it is fashionable to hear, even from liberal Lego members in Hong Kong, the phrase that "Marxism is dead", implying that life will now be very different. Seldom do they consider that, even if the ideology now lacks credibility, those who continue to operate the structure have not died. Their work and their means of survival involve corruption, extreme cruelty, and lies, which continue to permeate every transaction.

Wu's salutary prologue describes the general collapse of faith in socialism during the last ten years. But the result is the opposite of that expected by gullible westerners. Having failed to produce the required results through political education and thought reform, the Laogai staff have increased the use of violence, to ensure that production targets are met.

Laogai is available from Westview Press, 36 Lonsdale Road, Oxford OX2 7EW.

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Pooley chases sculling crown

BY MIKE ROSEWELL

THE Wingfield Sculls, the sculling championship of Britain, promises to be a classic confrontation from Putney to Mortlake today (1.30pm). The champion, Dr Guy Pooley, an Eton schoolmaster and coach, is confronted by five opponents but his main attention is likely to be centred on Peter Haining and Wade Hall-Craggs, both of whom were with him in the 1992 Olympic team.

Haining, who describes himself as a "full-time athlete", took the Scullers Head title from Pooley in rough conditions a fortnight ago and immediately informed onlookers to "get the Wingfield ready". But as a spectator, he must have been subsequently impressed when Pooley, 27, won the Veteran Scullers Head only five seconds slower than the best performance over the four-and-a-quarter-mile course.

Haining pushed Pooley to one of the closest Wingfield wins in 1992 while Hall-Craggs, who went on to achieve single sculls selection for Britain in Barcelona, was in contention for most of the race and also beat Pooley in the Scullers Head.

The sculling pedigrees of the other rowers in today's race are not as impressive. Ralph Humphrey finished fifteenth in the Scullers Head, Andrew Murray was a Henley pairs finalist last year and Leon Fletcher twice achieved a world championships final place as a British junior.

DRAW FOR STATIONS: Lane 1 (Surrey) P Haining (Auriol Kensington). 2: R Humphrey (Tideway Scullers): 3: G Pooley (Leander); 4: L Fletcher (Thames). 5: A Murray (Leander). 6 (Middlesex): W Hall-Craggs (Tideway Scullers)

☐ The Henley Stewards' Charitable Trust is giving £60,000 to British junior rowing this year. It brings its support of the sport to more than £300,000 since the charity was founded in 1988.

Former world champion continues return to form with impressive victory

Griffiths builds on first-round record

BY PHIL YATES

TERRY Griffiths enhanced his impressive record at the Crucible Theatre with a 10-6 victory over David Roe in the first round of the Embassy world snooker championship in Sheffield yesterday.

Griffiths, 45, has negotiated the opening round of the sport's premier event since 1983 and, after establishing a 6-0 lead in the first session on Tuesday by employing a characteristically hard, percentage game, that sequence was never seriously threatened.

It was a remarkable performance from Griffiths who, after reaching the quarter-finals of the Dubai Classic and thesemi-finals of the Rothman's Grand Prix in October, suffered nine successive defeats before finally ending the barren spell at the International Open earlier this month.

Griffiths believes that this unprecedented slump, the worst of his 15-year professional career, was worsened, if not caused by, his decision to leave the management stable of Barry Hearn, Matchroom, in January.

"Leaving Matchroom was a bigger jolt than I thought it would be," Griffiths said. "I had 10½ happy years with Barry and he's still a good friend. I parted with Matchroom on a happy basis but it took me over a month to get over it."

Resuming yesterday with a 6-2 lead, Griffiths, the No 6 seed, won the first frame of the second session on the pink for a 7-2 lead before Roe, feeling less than 100 per cent fit because of a heavy cold, took the next two frames, thanks largely to runs of 36 and 78.

Griffiths then compiled his highest break of the season, 133, in the twelfth frame. His 42 clearance to blue increased the lead to 9-4 and when Griffiths led 67-1 at an advanced stage of the fourteenth frame, a 10-4 win seemed assured.

However, the missed red from short range to a middle pocket which followed was to cause Griffiths an hour of consternation. Roe clawed his way back into the frame with a break of 40, eventually cleared brown to black to stay alive at 9-5 and also took the fifteenth frame with a 54 break.

Taking the opportunity to answer the call of nature between frames, Griffiths bumped into Hearn backstage. "I saw Barry and he said 'Go on Griff'. That really spurred me on," Griffiths, who on his return to the arena duly won the frame needed to secure his progress, said.

Hearn has recently been the subject of newspaper allegations of mis-management, but Griffiths was quick to jump to his defence. "Barry is not involved in snooker as much these days as he used to be, worse luck, and the circuit is missing him terribly.

"What's been in the press lately about Matchroom is absolutely disgusting. That's my personal opinion. When we went our separate ways, Barry suggested I should do it after the world championship. Maybe he was right because it did affect my form for sure."

The recent opening of a second snooker club in his native Llanelli and Hearn's diminished interest in the game appeared to be the reasons behind Griffiths's amicable split with Matchroom.

James Wattana, attempting to become the first overseas winner of the championship since Cliff Thorburn in 1980, did little to inspire confidence during a 10-7 victory over Tony Jones.

Wattana, 23, showed little of the devastating potting and break-building that carried him to victories in this season's Belgian Masters and World Matchplay after resuming yesterday with a 6-3 overnight lead.

Wattana, who beat Jones 10-4 in the first round last year, seemed on course for a similarly comfortable passage when he moved 7-3 ahead with breaks of 31 and 45 in the tenth frame before Jones, a surprise winner of the 1991 European Open, pulled back to 7-5 with runs of 96 and 61.

Jones, the world No 22, who has won only five matches in the preceding eight ranking tournaments, had a chance to further erode his deficit when, at 51-31 down in the next frame, he missed an easy penultimate red with the colours ideally placed for a clearance.

Wattana unconvincingly moved to 9-5, only for Jones to win the following two frames to trail 9-7.

The seventeenth frame was also close but, after failing to escape from a snooker on the yellow, Jones left a free ball and a relieved Wattana cleared to pink. "I didn't deserve to win. Tony played the better snooker. I'm far from happy with my game and I'll need to improve before the next round," Wattana, who meets Steve James, the world No 10, for a place in the quarter-finals, said. "I just don't know how I managed to get away with it."

Steve Davis, winner of the European Open, British Open and Benson and Hedges Irish Masters since mid-February, in what has been his most productive period since 1989, was forced to labour long and hard before he established a 5-3 first-session advantage over Peter Ebdon.

Twelve months ago Ebdon created arguably the biggest upset in world championship history when, as a first-season professional, he beat Davis 10-4 at the corresponding change of the event. Ebdon, who continues to sport a distinctive ponytail, again posed problems for Davis in the initial stages. Breaks of 104, 53 and 98, which began with a fluked red, helped Ebdon share the opening six frames on the way to 3-3, but Davis, although not at his best, won the closing two frames of the morning to give him a useful cushion.

RESULTS: T Griffiths (Wales) bt D Roe (Eng), 10-6, J Wattana (Tha) bt A Jones (Eng), 10-7. Latest positions, S Davis (Eng) leads P Ebdon (Eng), 5-3. TODAY'S ORDER OF PLAY: 1500: First round: M Clark (Eng) v K Payne (Eng). Second round: J Parrott (Eng) v W Thorne (Eng). 1930: First round: A Robidoux (Can) v D Mountjoy (Wales). Second round: S Hendry (Scot) v D Morgan (Wales).

KEVIN SMITH



Century bound: Ebdon at the table during a three-figure break against Davis yesterday

Defence of realm inspires Muster

THOMAS Muster avenged his defeat by Andrei Chesnokov in the final of the 1990 Monte Carlo Open tennis championship by beating him in straight sets in the second round of the tournament yesterday.

Muster, of Austria, the defending champion and No. 8 seed, won 6-2, 6-4 in 87 minutes. Chesnokov, unseeded after falling to No. 57 in the world rankings, found it hard to find his rhythm in the first set against the hard-hitting left-hander.

However, he posed some problems in the second, opening a 2-0 lead before Muster broke back, and levelling at 4-4 after the Austrian had taken the lead.

Chesnokov was having trouble on his serve, however, and Muster broke straight back and then held his own to earn a place in the last 16.

Chesnokov beat Muster in straight sets in the 1990 final. "I wasn't thinking about that match," Muster said. "Three years is a long time. But I knew it would be a tough match. He's always hard to beat. It looks easy to win 6-2, 6-4, but it was hard work."

Muster now meets either Magnus Larsson, of Sweden, or the Dutchman, Paul Haarhuis, and has no seeds left in his quarter of the draw after the surprise elimination of Boris Becker, the No. 2 seed, on Tuesday.

But Muster, who lives in Monaco, said he did not have his sights set on winning the tournament. "I'm not thinking of defending my title," he said. "I just want to play well. I just love playing here. I know the people well and I feel great."

RESULTS: Second round: T Muster (Austria) bt A Chesnokov (Russ), 6-2, 6-4; P Korda (Cz) bt M Ondruska (SA), 6-3, 6-2; C Pioline (Fr) bt A Knoblein (US), 6-2, 2-6, 6-4; M Larsson (Swe) bt P Haarhuis (Holl), 3-6, 6-2, 7-6, J Svensson (Swe) bt M Stich (Ger), 6-7, 6-4, 6-0

LA CRÊME DE LA CRÊME

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The Society is the one professional institution dedicated to the interests of the entire aerospace community and the Director is the chief executive, based at the Society's prestigious Headquarters at Hyde Park Corner.

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Although the Director is virtually independent of conventional secretarial assistance, the successful candidate will need to be conversant with the comprehensive use of personal computing techniques for word processing, spreadsheets and data base activity, conducted on the Apple Macintosh network in the Directorate. The Director and his senior managers recognise the frequent need to execute less than challenging tasks and the Assistant must be prepared to be similarly flexible.

Candidates should be mid-twenties to late thirties and a working knowledge of other European languages would be an advantage; occasional international travel will be required.

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Law Report April 22 1993 Court of Appeal

Issue of warrant not discretionary

The Varna
Before Lord Justice Scott and Lord Justice Rose

[Judgment April 21]

The issue of a warrant for the arrest of property in an Admiralty action *in rem* was no longer a discretionary remedy, and the general duty of full and frank disclosure which lay on a party applying for a discretionary remedy therefore did not apply in respect of the affidavit required, by Order 75, rule 5(4) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, to be filed prior to the issue of the warrant.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Vao Exportkhleb, the owners and/or consignees of cargo lately laden on board the motor vessel Geo Milev, from an order of Mr Justice Curtis who, in the Admiralty Court of the Queen's Bench Division on April 14, had granted an application by the first defendant, Navigation Maritime Bulgare, the owners of the Geo Milev and her sister ship, the motor vessel Varna, to set aside the warrant for the arrest of the Varna issued by the plaintiff and to release her from arrest.

The judge had granted the application on the ground that the plaintiff had failed in its affidavit under Order 75, rule 5(4) to make full and frank disclosure of material background facts and of the existence of proceedings between the parties pending in Bulgaria.

Mr Richard Siberry QC and Mr Joe Smouha for the plaintiff; Mr Bernard Eder, QC, for the first defendant.

LORD JUSTICE SCOTT said that, before the judge, both parties had argued the application on the basis that, on the authority of Lord Justice Robert Goff's decision in The Andria now renamed Vasso ([1984] QB 477), the issue of a warrant for the arrest of property in an Admiralty action was a discretionary remedy and that the plaintiff was therefore under an obligation to make full and frank disclosure of material facts.

When the appeal had been heard on April 15 the same mutual assumption had been made, and the court had indicated that the appeal would be dismissed for reasons to be given later and had discharged the stay which his Lordship had earlier imposed on the judge's order. The ship had since sailed.

On April 16 counsel for the plaintiff had written to his Lordship indicating that the Admiralty Marshal had drawn his attention to amendments to Order 75, rule 5 made in 1986, after the decision in The Vasso, of which neither the judge nor the Court of Appeal had been made aware. The court had thereupon directed that the appeal be re-listed for further argument.

At the time of the decision in The Vasso, rule 5(1) had provided that a warrant "may ... be issued at the instance of the plaintiff ..." and rule 5(3) had referred to "a party applying for the issue ... of a warrant". Rule 5(1), as amended by Rules of the Supreme Court (Amendment No 3) (SI 1986 No 2289), provided that "the plaintiff ... may ... issue a warrant". New rule 5(6) provided that "a warrant of arrest shall not be issued as of right" in a particular case and new rule 5(8) stated that "Issue of a warrant of arrest takes place upon its being sealed by an officer of the registry or district registry".

The first defendant conceded that the effect of the amendments to rule 5 was that the issue of a warrant was no longer a discretionary remedy, but contended that the continued involvement of the court in issuing the warrant and the requirement that an affidavit be filed containing the particulars required by rule 5(9) justified the same degree of disclosure.

His Lordship was unable to accept that submission. The amendments indicated that, except in the case specified in rule 5(6), issue of the warrant was as of right provided the requirements of the rule were complied with. "Full and frank disclosure" was an obligation owed to the court which had no real substance except in the context of an application on which it was asked to grant a discretionary remedy.

An analogy could be drawn with the registration of a charge under the Land Registration Act 1925 or the Land Charges Act 1972, where a person seeking to register a charge had to file an affidavit in which he was required to disclose no more than was sufficient to show that he had a registrable charge. No obligation of full and frank disclosure was owed. A party affected by registration could then apply for the charge to be vacated by placing before the court relevant circumstances showing that the charge ought not to have been registered.

Likewise, once the requirements of Order 75, rule 5 had been complied with and an affidavit filed containing the particulars required by rule 5(9), the plaintiff was entitled to issue the warrant which took effect when stamped by an officer of the registry. That officer's function was merely to ensure that those requirements had been fulfilled.

Lord Justice Robert Goff's dictum in The Vasso (at p492) that a warrant of arrest issued on the basis of an affidavit which failed to disclose material facts should be discharged unconditionally would now apply only if "material facts" were confined to facts required to be disclosed by rule 5(9).

There could be other grounds on which the defendant might subsequently succeed in getting the writ or the warrant set aside and it was possible that the court might have a general discretion to set aside a warrant of arrest on the basis that its effects were unjust.

However, failure to disclose in the rule 5(4) affidavit background facts and the existence of the Bulgarian proceedings, which was the only ground upon which the application had been made, was not a basis on which the warrant could be set aside.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, concurring, said that judges in England and Wales, unlike some other jurisdictions, had no assistance outside court in undertaking legal research.

Accordingly the duty on solicitors and counsel to place before the court all matters relevant to its decision was necessary, clear and high. It was particularly important when a matter was dealt with as a matter of great urgency during the vacation.

It was regrettable that neither the judge nor the Court of Appeal on the original hearing had had their attention drawn to the highly material changes to Order 75, rule 5 made since the decision in The Vasso.

It would seem that Mr Justice Sheen had likewise not had his attention drawn to them in The Mediterranean Carrier (unreported, July 18, 1990) and The Kherson ([1992] 2 Lloyd's Rep 261).

Solicitors: Ince & Co; Holman Fenwick & Willan.

Consequence of not amending legal aid certificate to reflect true position

Regina v Liverpool Crown Court, Ex parte the Lord Chancellor
Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Rougier

[Judgment April 6]

Where a defendant had been acquitted after a trial at which he was represented by two junior counsel but the legal aid certificate had been granted to cover the costs of a Queen's Counsel and junior counsel and had not been amended before or during the trial, the court had no power to make a defendant's costs order in respect of the senior junior under section 16 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an application by the Lord Chancellor for judicial review of a defendant's costs order made by Judge Paterson at Liverpool Crown Court in respect of the fees of the senior junior counsel who represented John David Quinn at his trial and acquittal on a charge of robbery and which had been disallowed under the legal aid order.

The Lord Chancellor's Department had agreed to make an ex gratia payment in respect of the fees concerned but contested the validity of the order.

Section 16 of the 1985 Act provides: "(2) Where ... (b) any person is tried on indictment and acquitted the court may make a defendant's costs order ...

"(6) A defendant's costs order shall ... be for the payment out of central funds, to the person in whose favour the order is made, of such amount as the court considers reasonably sufficient to compensate him for any expenses properly incurred by him in the proceedings."

Section 21(4A), as inserted by Schedule 5 to the Legal Aid Act 1988, provides: "Where one party to any proceedings is a legally assisted person then — (a) for the purposes of sections 16 and 17 of this Act, his costs shall be taken not to include ... the expenses incurred on his behalf by the Legal Aid Board or the Lord Chancellor ..."

Regulation 55 of the Legal Aid in Criminal and Care Proceedings (General) Regulations (SI 1989 No 344) provides: "Where a legal aid order has been made, the legally assisted person's solicitor or counsel shall not receive or be a party to the making of any payment for work done in connection with the proceedings in respect of which the legal aid order was made except such payments as may be made — (a) out of the legal aid fund or by the Lord Chancellor."

Miss Clare Montgomery for the Lord Chancellor; Mr David Hart as amicus curiae.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the there had been no extraordinary costs in representing Quinn. The legal aid order was in no way defective; it had just not been amended to include the relevant counsel either before or at the trial.

Quinn had not afforded any expense on his own behalf so he was not within section 16 and the judge had had no power to make the order.

The judge had erred in saying that regulation 55 did not apply. It did and its effect was to confine counsel's fees to the legal aid order.

The judge had also overlooked section 21(4A) of the Act. Quinn's costs could not be taken to include expenses incurred on his behalf by the Legal Aid Board or the Lord Chancellor's Department.

Mr Justice Rougier agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Treasury Solicitor.

Costs threaten to prevent part-timers claiming promotion



David Miller contends that a club which epitomises sportsmanship and the amateur ethic is worthy of financial help

Newcastle United will be wondering how much Kevin Keegan needs to spend to make an impact after their promotion to the Premier League. Corinthian-Casuals are anxiously calculating whether they can afford promotion at all.

Times change. Since the days when Newcastle memorably beat the Corinthians 3-1 in the FA Cup in front of 56,000 at Crystal Palace in 1927, the amateur world of Corinthian-Casuals, hybrid of two famous names, has become financially harassed. The club needs a five-figure sum to meet the ground requirements of the Diadora League — formerly called the Isthmian League — from which Corinthian-Casuals were disqualified nine years ago because they shared a ground.

Sir "Bert" Millichip, chairman of the FA, promised last weekend to approach the Football Trust for financial assistance for a club that, in a modest but significant way, does more than most to uphold traditions of fair play.

With a nine-point lead in the Spartan League, Corinthian-Casuals are close to promotion to the Diadora League third division.

Their chairman, David Harrison, said: "I haven't the heart to tell the players we won't make it if we don't find the money." The irony is that the club for the first time has its own ground, at Tolworth.

The first team is led by Steve Bangs, their player-manager and centre half, who spent 12 years in semi-professional football outside the Football League. His achievement — in the team's performance and sportsmanship — with the only amateur squad in a semi-professional environment is remarkable.

In this season's FA Cup, Corinthian-Casuals took Slough, who are five divisions above them, to a replay. This weekend, Casuals Veterans, who have an aggregate age of 500, reached the final of the Umbro Veterans Cup.

If the club cannot find the money to meet Diadora stipulations, they probably will lose not only Bangs, but other senior players. The most obvious target for poaching clubs will be Simon Liddle, whose 49 goals — including five last week in the 9-0 win over Haringey — has taken him well past Bernie Merron's previous record of 41.

In the event of promotion, Harrison is to ask the Diadora League to waive its acceptance deadline of June 1 and to seek permission to share a ground until improvements at Tolworth are completed. Mandatory improvements include separate directors' and press areas, grandstand accommodation for a minimum of 100, upgraded dressing-rooms and a fence costing £15,000 surrounding the ground. Both the club and Kingston-on-Thames Council, the lessor, contest the need for a fence.

Approaches for grant aid to the Sports Council and the government's new Foundation for Sport and Arts have so far been unavailing. Peter Lawson, of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, said this week that some help might be available.

Edward Grayson, the London barrister and author of *Sport And The Law*, is to donate all royalties from a reprint of his history, *Corinthians and Cricketers*, to Corinthian-Casuals. More benefactors are urgently needed.

Bangs, a true Corinthian, has said: "In return for the services of the players, I have attempted to make their time at the club as enjoyable as possible with good training and a high level of organisation. This has been made possible by the selfless commitment of those behind the scenes. The difference between us and other clubs is that any profit goes to the club to help re-establish Corinthian-Casuals as a paragon of non-League soccer."

It is in the FA's interest to help find support.

Seaside club surviving in stormy waters

Adrian Holloway meets the manager whose shrewd ventures into the transfer market are helping to keep the bailiffs at bay

THE recent history of Brighton and Hove Albion, the club which found the money to answer a winding-up petition in the High Court yesterday, with less than 24 hours to spare, by selling the first-team goalkeeper, provides a cautionary tale to all who choose to live beyond their means.

Leeds United provided the fee which the second division club needed to satisfy the court. The sum of £350,000, which the Football League champions paid for Mark Beeney, 25, coincided with that demanded by the Inland Revenue, pursuing unpaid PAYE.

Brighton are not yet out of the wood. Their debts, which total £2.9 million, still cast a shadow over the club's future. But many will wonder why the existence of Sussex's only league club should be under threat at all. Unlike many lower division clubs struggling for survival, Brighton have a large catchment area, and, last season, despite being relegated, they enjoyed higher average home attendances than half their opponents.

Yet, for nearly a decade, Brighton have had to rely on profits made in the transfer market to stay afloat. In this respect, the appointment as manager of Barry Lloyd in January 1987 has proved crucial. Having begun his managerial career at Yeovil and Worthing, Lloyd was accustomed to operating on a tight budget.

Lloyd, 44, has recorded a surplus of £1,225,000 on his transfer dealings — Beeney cost a mere £20,000 from Maidstone United in March, 1991 — but much of this has been eaten away by the interest owed on the club's debts. Of Brighton's main creditors, Barclays Bank is owed £1.2 million, the Leeds Building Society £750,000, and the Stanley Trust, run by Greg Stanley, the Brighton chairman, £600,000.

These debts are the legacy of Mike Bamber's tenure as chairman in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Bamber injected large amounts of his own money into the club, initially, with impressive results. Two years after being promoted from the old third division, Brighton arrived in the first in 1979.

"It was a classic case of a club suddenly hitting the big-time just when transfers, wages and contracts were soaring," Lloyd says. "Brighton really pushed the boat out and had people like Mark Lawrenson, Mike Robinson and Steve Foster on five or ten-year contracts."

When the club reached the FA Cup final in 1983, the players were rewarded with large bonuses. But the club was relegated at the end of the same season. In the second division, Brighton failed to adapt to reduced income.

"The players were on wages that compared with the best in the country, and on long contracts which had to be honoured," Lloyd said. "It also meant that, with the exception of Lawrenson, Brighton never got the money they should have done when the players were sold. The present board took over a hefty debt that couldn't go away because escalating costs were pushing it through the roof." With the crisis deepening, the directors appointed Lloyd as managing director in December 1991. None of his managerial experience, or his playing career with Chelsea, Fulham, Hereford and Brentford, could have prepared him for the task of trying to prevent a company from entering receivership.

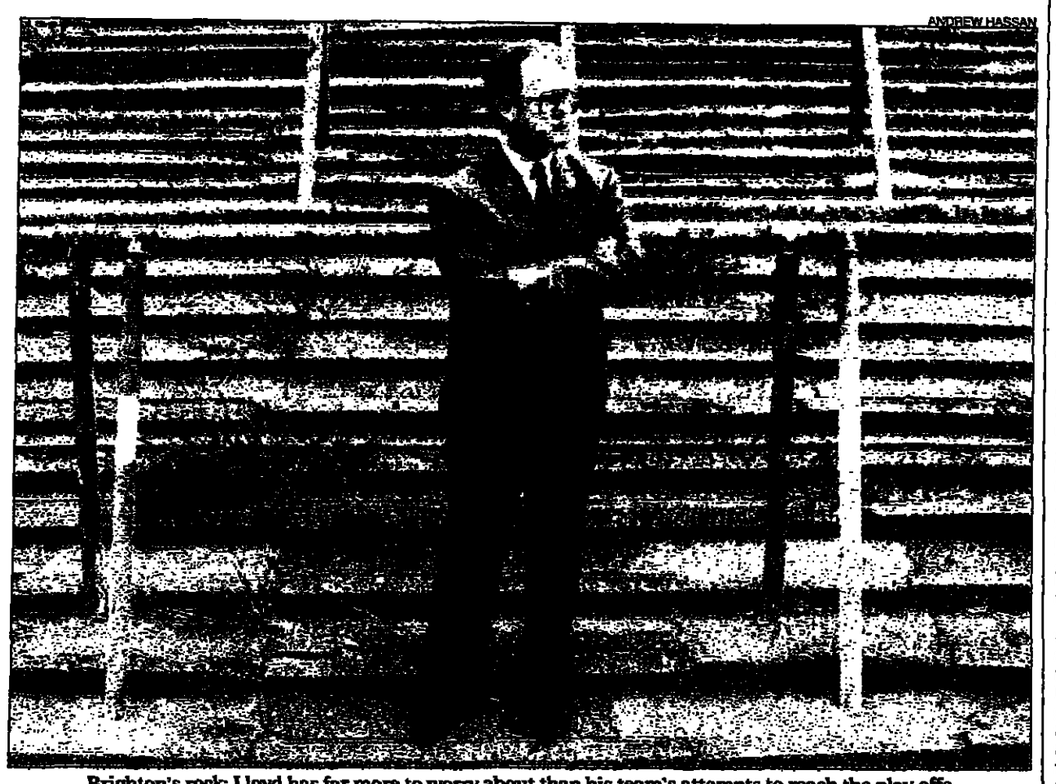
"I had absolutely no background in business," Lloyd said, "but we came up with a perfectly good survival plan, which should already have pulled us through and may yet come off."

Brighton's hopes are based on their main asset. All the amounts borrowed by the club were secured on the Goldstone Ground, which has never been sold. "I take my hat off to the previous board for not selling off the family silver," Stanley said.

Nevertheless, the club tried to move to a new site at Toads Hall Valley three years ago, but Hove Council refused planning permission. The directors then devised an alternative scheme to build a shopping warehouse at the Goldstone to increase its mortgage value, but in February, Hove Council again rejected the club's plans. Maidstone United encountered similar difficulties with a local authority before going out of existence in the summer of 1992.

Lloyd is in no doubt where the blame lies for Brighton's failure to extricate themselves from their predicament. "The local authority are a disgrace," he said. "The superstore proposal was recommended strongly by the council's officers, yet they turned it down. When I hear John Major talk about the centralisation of government, I think it would be a good thing." Brighton's appeal against the council's decision will be heard on August 17.

ANDREW HASSAN



Brighton's rock: Lloyd has far more to worry about than his team's attempts to reach the play-offs

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Total: £1,075,000.

Sold

Dean Saunders (Oxford), £60,000; Terry Connor (Portsmouth), £200,000; Chris Hutchings (Huddersfield), £25,000; Danny Wilson (Luton), £150,000; Eric Young (Wimbledon), £80,000; Doug Rougvie (Shrewsbury), £50,000; Keith Dublin (Watford), £275,000; John Keeley (Oldham), £250,000; Paul Wood (Sheffield Utd), £110,000; Steve Gatting (Charlton), free; Steve Penney (Burnley), free; Garry Nelson (Charlton), £50,000; Mike Small, (West Ham), £400,000; John Byrne (Sunderland), £225,000; John Robinson, (Charlton), £75,000; Mark Beeney (Leeds), £350,000.

Total: £2,300,000.

Overall profit: £1,225,000.

Chiefs seal deal with 49ers to secure Montana

BY ROBERT KIRLEY

JOE Montana, one of the finest quarterbacks in National Football League (NFL) history, has left the San Francisco 49ers and joined the Kansas City Chiefs. He was not a free agent, so San Francisco, the club he led to four Super Bowl championships in 14 seasons, had to approve his departure.

The clubs were to announce details of the deal last night, but it was reported that the safety, David Whitmore, and a third-round college draft choice in 1994 accompanied Montana in exchange for a first-round choice in the draft that will be held on Sunday. Montana, 36, agreed personal terms on a three-year contract with Kansas City last Friday, however the clubs had been unable to close the deal until Tuesday.

"We worked hard to come to an agreement that was palatable for both sides, and I think that it is a fair trade," Carl Peterson, the Kansas City general manager, said. "We are pleased to finish the last aspect of acquiring Joe Montana for what we hope will be three exciting years for the Chiefs."

On Sunday, the 49ers had tried to keep Montana onside by promising him the starting job for summer training camp, reversing their position that Steve Young would start. Young, Montana's understudy for several seasons, came into his own during the last two seasons, when Montana was sidelined by elbow trouble for all but half of one game. Young, who led the NFL in passing for the last two years, was named most-valuable player in the NFL last season.

Kansas City had ten wins and six defeats last season and qualified for the play-offs as a wild-card team for the third successive year, but they were eliminated in the first round by the San Diego Chargers. Kansas City have won only one of four play-off games under the coach, Marty Schottenheimer. After the lastest post-season disappointment, Schottenheimer hired a former 49ers assistant coach, Paul Hackett, as his offensive co-ordinator. Hackett will implement the same type of offense that Montana used in San Francisco.

Montana, who will replace Dave Krieg as the Kansas City quarterback, has won the most-valuable-player award in the Super Bowl three times, completed 2,929 of 4,600 career passes for an NFL-record 63.6 completion percentage, 35,124 yards, 244 touchdowns and 123 interceptions. His seven seasons of throwing for more than 3,000 yards is also a league record. He holds play-off records for attempts (593), completions (375), yards (4,758) and touchdowns (39) and has never been intercepted in 122 Super Bowl passes.

The 49ers had the best regular-season record, 14 wins and two defeats, in the league in 1992. In the National Football Conference final, they were beaten by the Dallas Cowboys, who followed up by winning Super Bowl XXVII.



Montana: new challenge

SPORTS LETTERS

Cricket can borrow from golf

From the Reverend I. Hawkins

Sir, We often see mention of Ryder Cup points and their obvious importance to professional golfers. The Test and County Cricket Board could take a leaf from the PGA's book. Why not make being chosen to play for England dependent on the position a player has in the averages?

You could choose the top five batsmen, the best all-rounder, top two fast bowlers, top two spinners and the best wicketkeeper, plus the next bowler or batsman as twelfth man. Until a new season's averages were meaningful, say after two months or so, selections could be made on the previous season's tables.

The chances are there would be a captain among the 11 men and, if not, it should not be difficult to find a suitable candidate. Or why not a non-playing captain — another golfing idea?

Many at the top of our averages would not be eligible as they are overseas players, and does this not say something about our standards?

I see difficulties — no more selection dinners, no more trips round the grounds viewing players for the selection committee — but such an arrangement would concentrate the mind of players even more if they knew selection depended solely on what they did week by week.

Yours faithfully,
IAN C. HAWKINS,
New Horizons, 7 Main Road,
Bradwell, Derbyshire.

Runners may have to count physical cost

From Professor Emeritus J. K. Russell

Sir, Some 25,500 people set off on this year's London Marathon, a distance of 26 miles and 385 yards. One must admire their energy and enthusiasm and especially the contribution many will make to worthy causes.

Pheidippides, who is said to have run the original course from Marathon to Athens, would have run on relatively soft ground. Today's runners, by contrast, are pounding hard road surfaces and in preparation for the event will have been doing so over shorter distances for many months. Jogging and locally organised runs of several miles are now commonplace throughout the country.

One must ask whether it is wise for man, in anatomical and physiological terms, to run (as opposed to walk) regularly or for long distances on hard roads. Is there a risk, in time, of damage to the articular surfaces of the small bones of the feet or the larger bones of the ankle, knee and hip joints?

I am sufficiently aware of the anatomy and physiology of joints to ask the question but in no position to offer an answer.

It would be helpful to have an informed orthopaedic opinion as to the possibility of later, adverse effects on joints of frequent or long-distance running on hard surfaces such as tarmacadam or concrete.

Yours faithfully,
J. K. RUSSELL
Newlands,
Tranwell Woods,
Morpeth, Northumberland.

From Mr John Humphries

Sir, I was interested in your leading article (April 19) which started that "to complete the marathon is the ultimate sporting achievement" and in the front-page reference to Eamonn Martin having been written off by sponsors as too old at 34.

As a 59-year-old who has completed the last six London Marathons, albeit in times not approaching his potential, I am thinking of competing over longer distances (ultra-thoning), where it is possible to eat on the run.

There is a whole new extended world out there, which stretches the ultimate far further than the acclaimed 26.2 miles distance, but whose leading competitors' exploits are generally unsung by the media, presumably because of the lack of spectator interest.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HUMPHRIES,
2 Queen's Close,
Walton on the Hill,
Tadworth,
Surrey.

From Mr Jeremy Hughes

Sir, Bright they might be, but I'm afraid Sparks's charity team in the London Marathon is still some way off the *Guinness Book of Records* (report, April 21). The Muscular Dystrophy Group had a team of 1,069 in 1984.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY HUGHES,
Muscular Dystrophy Group of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
7-11 Prescott Place, SW4.

Tribute to horse's recovery

From Mr Don Bass

Sir, As the owner of Modesto I must respond to the official complaint made to the Jockey Club after his victory earlier this month at Lingfield (report, April 20).

On October 13, 1992, Modesto collapsed with a twisted gut and his life was saved by the speedy reaction of the trainer and his staff and the surgeon at the Equine Hospital at Liphook, Hampshire.

The vets advised us to rest the horse for six to nine months, but as Modesto is a specialist on the all-weather track at Lingfield, we decided to race him there from mid-January onwards. For the first few races he refused to let himself down and was clearly worried about the two-foot wound from the operation.

On March 27, 1993, for the first time he stretched himself and ran on at the end of the race, finishing fifth behind Neil Graham's horse, Gold Blade. He was blinkered and ridden by an inexperienced apprentice but showed considerable improvement over previous tailed-off races.

This improvement continued on April 3, when, visored for the first time and under strong driving from Nicky Carlisle, he won, although 16lb out of the handicap, by half a length from Gold Blade.

The starting price opened and remained at 33-1. *The Sporting Life* and the *Racing Post*, which record significant bets at the track, made no mention of any bets on Modesto in this race. The Tote paid £44.30 for the win and £7.30 for a place, although the favourite was also placed. I did not back the horse nor did any of my friends, nor, to my knowledge, did anyone connected with the trainer. They are not a gambling stable.

Mr Graham is accusing the trainer, Ken Cunningham-Brown, of breaching the rule dealing with non-triers in his previous race. Why? Had Modesto won that race he would still have had the same weight on April 3. In fact, he would probably have carried 7st 7lb had he won his previous two races.

There was therefore no motive regarding the handicap or the betting. Mr Graham would do better to acknowledge the superb training performance of Mr Cunningham-Brown in taking Modesto from near death to such a win after only five and half months following such a serious operation.

Yours faithfully,
DON BASS,
Clairmont House,
Rue de Bas,
St Lawrence, Jersey, C1.

Government should stop

From Mr William Allan

Sir, How can the prime minister justify continuing to spend millions of pounds of taxpayers' money (report, April 6) on government sponsorship of Manchester's bid to host the 2000 Olympic Games in the aftermath of the crowd invasion during the Manchester City v Tottenham Hotspur FA Cup tie and the Grand National fiasco?

These sporting debacles, witnessed by millions of viewers throughout the world, gave a sad portrayal of crowd misbehaviour and organisational ineptitude at two of the country's leading sporting events.

I suggest to Mr Major and Manchester's civic dignitaries that they withdraw their bid to host the 2000 Olympic Games and the money, already allocated to what can only now be described as an embarrassing misadventure, be diverted to some other more worthwhile cause.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM ALLAN,
13 Abbots Place,
Kilwinning, Ayrshire.

Expert display

From Mr L. C. F. Burges

Sir, I hope that all the English football authorities, especially players and managers, benefited form the expertise of the Dutch referee, Mario van der Ende, in the recent Marseilles v Rangers game.

His wonderful control prevented the usual professional antics of shirt-pulling, elbowing and, of course, arguing with the referee — all aspects of the game which do so much to spoil its image.

Some of the most recent excesses of behaviour appeared at the Arsenal v Tottenham FA Cup semi-final, with the Tottenham management apparently abusing the officials leaving the field at half-time.

I fully agree with your football correspondent (April 8) that the Dutchman took no nonsense from anyone. If more football games were controlled in a similar way, the game would vastly improve. Young people would be set a better example and the impact of thuggery on and off the field considerably neutralised.

Yours faithfully,
L. BURGES,
115 Norton Road, Winton,
Bournemouth, Dorset.

Need has passed

From Mr P. Chapman

Sir, With the advent of players' names shown prominently on their shirts — in the Coca-Cola Cup final between Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday last Sunday — surely the last reason for having commentators at matches broadcast on television has passed.

When the commentator said, "Smith turns it over the line for a corner," we could all see that it was a corner, but there was perhaps some marginal advantage in being told who had done it. Now we can see it all.

It is not an answer simply to turn off the sound. Football without it makes no sense.

Yours faithfully,
P. CHAPMAN,
15 Lime Kiln Road,
Tackley,
Oxfordshire.

Short circuit

From Mr Adrian Brodkin

Sir, In the recent European grand prix Ayrton Senna was credited with the fastest lap of the race when he entered the pit lane for a tyre change but drove straight back out without stopping, his pit crew being unready. This route was apparently some 200 metres shorter than the race track, but was it legal?

The *reductio ad absurdum* would permit all drivers to take this "short cut" through the pits on every lap of the race. By allowing the lap time to stand, has not a (literally) dangerous precedent been set?

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN BRODKIN,
93 Kingsley Way, N2.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046. They should include a daytime telephone number.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 48

COMACINE
(b) A medieval guild of Italian masons, also a mason or builder belonging to this guild, from the Italian *maestri comacini*.

SONDAGE
(b) A deep trench dug to investigate the stratigraphy of a site in archaeology, from the French *sondage* sounding, borehole: "We have seen that holes dug into extensive layers can be disastrous for their subsequent interpretation, and anyway the information gained by a sondage, however small, relates only to the area of the sondage."

PLURIARC
(a) A West African musical instrument made of a wooden resonator to which several curved rods holding taut strings are attached, from the French, G. Montandon's *La Généalogie des Instruments de Musique*, 1919: "When played, it (sc. the bow lute) is held like a harp, giving it the impression of being a harp in which each string has a separate neck. The French word *pluriarc* expresses this well."

KORO
(a) An elaborate Japanese vase, usually of bronze, jade or porcelain, in which incense is burned, from the Japanese *kōro* incense-pot, censer: "No notice of the contents of a Japanese house would be complete without some reference to the incense-burners (*kō-ro*) which find a place there, and also in the Buddhist temples. These afforded employment for a large number of artists in bronze."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

The subtle 1 Qc2! hits the rook on a4, while threatening to swoop over to the kingside with 2 Qxg6+ and 3 Qxh5. Black has no defence.

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England break free from power struggle



Gerald Davies reflects on a team display that demonstrated the art of sevens rugby in its full glory

ENGLAND'S victory at Murrayfield last Sunday had a significance beyond their own immediate joy of winning the inaugural World Cup sevens.

A resounding whoop of delight should also have been heard from Melrose to Middlesex for a demonstration by Harriman's team of the virtues more traditionally associated with the British version of the game.

It was almost a shout for the smaller man. And I do not mean the underdog. England, I do not suppose, will ever get to be seen or appreciated as such; it is their inheritance and their burden.

I mean to give a shout for the man who, on contact, does not resemble a tree trunk: less a man who has been pumping iron all day than the one who has attended a few aerobics classes in his time.

England's was a vivid display of, for want of a better phrase, old-style sevens technique. It was akin, though not quite as controlled or as assured, as that perfected by the old masters, London Scottish.

Three decades ago, when the rest of the world beyond these shores were impervious to the attractions of sevens, they made it seem that success could be achieved with economy of effort, subtle changes of direction and tempo, and when — and only when — the time was right, with a sudden flourish of speed. It had begun to seem a dying art.

With the promotion of the Hong Kong sevens, where the influence of the southern hemisphere predominates, the philosophy has been advanced with widespread acceptance that sevens, like its distantly related forebear, 15 a side, had developed into a game obsessive about power.

Sevens, too, heard the rumour circulated about "big hits" by strong men. There was room for the likes of Serevi, of Fiji, but it is the big men that made things count.

Deceptive play still existed and some agility survived but, as the final match in Hong Kong showed, the mood can be rough and tumble, the style frenzied, with less team work than individual effort.

England, less frenetic and more analytical, went some way to restoring a balance that had been so elegantly expressed in the late Fifties and early Sixties by the Scotsmen, Rodd, Laughland, Shackleton, Thomson, and the rest.

It was a finely judged game they played, teasing and testing. It was cat and mouse. They ran at full speed only when a try was guaranteed. They did not waste their energy in futile gestures.

Fitness levels have changed but the rule to conserve effort still applies. To kick and chase was not an option they contemplated. Kick and chase is the last resort of a desperate player. It had become too apparent in Hong Kong, chasing up and down the pitch.

The Scottish played to the quiet rhythm of chess; today's style approximates a breathless game of snakes and ladders. To kick is a dubious tactic; England rarely did so. When they did in the final, they nearly came unstuck. Having seen their 21-0 lead reduced by ten, but with Australia still at a distance, England, for respite, or safety, kicked the ball out of play.

To kick for territorial advantage is almost meaningless in sevens, where there is so much space. Possession is the key. In giving away possession, resulting in Taupeaffe's try and Lynagh's conversion, England saw their lead whittled down to four.

It was the moment to sympathise with Cusworth and Rossborough, the management team who had masterminded the effort. Managers are destined to suffer agonies of hopeless importance.

There is another lesson England might learn, too. They must not be too sensitive to the ironic cheers that came their way at Murrayfield. London Welsh, likewise, had to suffer annually at the Middlesex sevens at Twickenham in the Seventies. The Welsh were told not to take it seriously; it's only a bit of fun. Take it as a compliment instead.

Board needs to show it maintains firm grip



David Hands looks at problems rugby's world governing body needs to address in Edinburgh

THE International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) will conclude its annual deliberations this evening in Edinburgh and will indicate tomorrow how great its grasp remains of a game that seems at times to be galloping away from it.

What, for instance, are we to make of the Super 10 tournament under way in the southern hemisphere, which embraces tactical substitutions and quarter-time (for the benefit of television)? What are the circumstances in which the former rugby league international, Tony Melrose, is now playing club rugby union in Sydney?

It is the same with the laws of the game. If referees ignore them, it scarcely matters how they are changed. Last weekend, admittedly in the abbreviated context of sevens, we were offered two days in which officials blithely waved play on almost regardless but, come the third day when the serious stuff started, the whistles were well in tune.

"We were told the sevens would be based on the laws of the game — loosely based, I would say," Bob Dwyer, the Australia coach, said at one stage. If, indeed, the laws had been as properly observed as Jim Fleming did in the opening game of the 1991 World Cup, would all the changes introduced last year have been brought in at all?

Laws, though, have re-entered a moratorium period (with the exception of any consequential amendments to the new ones believed necessary); however, tomorrow the board will announce whether the two experimental laws, relating to the lineout and the ruck-maul, have been confirmed or whether the experiment is to continue. There seems little chance that either will be repealed.

The topic of amateurism, where the regulations have undergone review, will include the various commercial schemes offered by Wales, New Zealand, South Africa, Australia and France for approval. The French are the latest to have drawn up proposals that allow players remuneration for work done in promoting the game, in compliance with regulation 5.

"A lot of unions are using that regulation to enable their players to be paid," Denis Easby, chairman of the board's amateurism committee, said. "So long as it can be monitored, either by the individual union or the board, there would seem to be no infringement." The regulation in question permits people to be employed or engaged for the organisation, administration or promotion of rugby, or the teaching of players under 21.

The Australians, never short of proposals, seek a common agreement on the citing of players believed to be guilty of foul play. After the southern hemisphere nations met in Wellington in February, New Zealand produced a 48-page booklet dealing with disciplinary matters and both countries would like a formula written into tour agreements to avoid the sort of controversy which attended the All Blacks in Australia last year after incidents involving Richard Loe, their prop forward.

That, if agreed, would affect the British Isles, who have already said they will fall in with the board's decisions in matters affecting the law and discipline. The Lions leave for New Zealand on May 13 and will hold a preliminary squad meeting in London this weekend.

☐ Bryan Williams, the former All Black, said in Auckland yesterday that he had strong doubts whether the 1995 World Cup should be staged in South Africa. Williams, who is technical adviser to the Western Samoan team, made his comments on his return from South Africa, where his team played Natal in a Super 10 match.

He said there is still the potential for trouble from extremists on both sides. "In terms of everyday business, there was not such a great acrimony or ill will," he said. "There were lots of people committed to changes, but there was an underlying tension that extremists could, with one spark, start trouble."

MARK LEECH



Looking ahead: Jones happy at the prospect of touring with British Isles

Scotland lose two for tour

ALAN Sharp, the London Scottish prop, and Dale McIntosh, of Pontypridd, have both withdrawn from the Scotland rugby union tour to Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa which begins on May 16 (Alan Lorimer writes).

The Scotland selectors have delayed naming any replacements for the two Scottish Exiles forwards.

Sharp, who was a member of the Bristol club and who is a former England B cap, had an appendix operation last week.

This is the second blow of the year for Sharp, who seemed set to win his first Scotland cap this season only to be thwarted by a shin injury just before the start of the five nations' championship.

The loss of Sharp for the south sea islands tour is particularly acute for Scotland, given the paucity of candidates for the loose-head position.

Alan Watt seems certain to be ruled out on the grounds of health and, in the circumstances, the selectors may turn to Peter Jones, of Gloucester, who was part of Scotland's tour to Australia last year and who played against Italy this season in the A match at Melrose.

McIntosh broke his arm playing for Pontypridd against Llanelli in the Swalec Cup but had harboured a slight hope of recovering in time for the tour.

The fracture, however, has necessitated that his arm remain in plaster for several weeks, thus ruling him out of the tour.

This is the latest in a series of setbacks to McIntosh's international career. A back injury forced him to retire from the 1992 Scotland trial and a year later, in the corresponding match, he broke his thumb.

The replacement for McIntosh is likely to be one of Nick Penny (Stewart's Melville FP), John Robertson (Heriot's FP) and Ron Kirkpatrick (Jed-Forest).

Jones in Lions touring party

BY DAVID HANDS

ROBERT Jones, who helped the British Isles to win their three-match series with Australia in 1989, was recalled to the 1993 Lions tour party to New Zealand yesterday after the withdrawal of Gary Armstrong.

Armstrong, Scotland's scrum half and deputy to Jones four years ago, has not recovered from an ankle injury sustained during this year's five nations' championship and which has prevented him playing for the last six weeks.

However, his absence alters the balance of the party in the fundamental position: both Armstrong and England's Dewi Morris are players from the same mould, physical presences around the scrum, whereas Jones provides a tactical link.

The combination worked against the Australians, of course, and may do so again if Jones reclaims his best form.

It comes at the end of a sorry six weeks for the Welshman who was dropped for Wales's final championship match against France last month in favour of Rupert Moon, missed selection for the Lions, and suffered influenza and the sight of Swansea, his club, being knocked off the top of the Heineken League.

"After Geoff Cooke rang through I had a huge smile on my face," Jones, 27, said. "Someone said it was my first smile for three months." The scrum half, capped 46 times, will be returning to a country he visited with Wales during the 1987 World Cup and on tour in 1988; he will, of course, miss Wales's summer tour to Zimbabwe and Namibia, for which his replacement is expected to be Robert Howley of Bridgend.

"The way things were going at the start of the season I genuinely felt all I had to do was continue playing as I was and I would go with the Lions," Jones said. "Things took a turn for the worse after Christmas and the disappointing thing was that selection for the Lions seemed to be based on the three games I played for Wales behind a beaten pack."

Injury has now removed from the tour both of Scotland's half backs, Armstrong and Craig Chalmers, who broke an arm during the match against England. As an experienced partnership they would have expected to challenge for the three international matches in New Zealand.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Peyron sails home to rousing reception

BRUNO Peyron, the French yachtsman, made a triumphant return to his home port of Le Pouliguen yesterday after his record 79-day circumnavigation of the globe. Peyron's Commodore Explorer, the biggest catamaran in the world, was surrounded by hundreds of small vessels as it entered the harbour on the west coast of France. More than 100,000 people welcomed him and his crew — the American, Cameron Lewis, and the Frenchmen, Olivier Despaigne, Jacques Vincent and Marc Vallin.

Peyron, 37, experienced much good fortune with the weather during the 79 days, six hours and 15 minutes it took to sail around the world to win the first Jules Verne Trophy. But he had to be towed part of the way from the finish line — between Ushant Island, off the west coast of France, and Lizard Point, in south-west England — to Le Pouliguen after being stranded in a calm.

He said the 85-foot catamaran had played the key role in beating the previous world record of 109 days, set by his fellow Frenchman, Titouan Lamazou, who was one of the organisers of the Jules Verne race.

Draw unkind to Britain

TENNIS: Britain will play Luxembourg, Ukraine, Russia and Lithuania in the Europe-Africa Federation Cup qualifying tournament in Nottingham from May 10 to 16. They must finish in the top two of the tough group if they are to stand a chance of reaching the finals in Frankfurt in July.

Jeremy Bates will lead Britain's challenge in the Davis Cup Europe-Africa zone match with Hungary in Budapest from April 30 to May 2. Bates is joined by Mark Petchey, Chris Bailey and Chris Wilkinson in the team.

FEDERATION CUP DRAW (Europe-Africa qualifying competition). Group A: Croatia, Estonia, Turkey, Malta. Group B: Belgium, Ireland, Norway, Senegal. Group C: Britain, Luxembourg, Ukraine, Russia, Lithuania. Group D: Latvia, Egypt, Romania, Portugal, Hungary. Group E: Slovenia, Zimbabwe, Tunisia, Israel, Greece.

Leigh may sell ground

RUGBY LEAGUE: Leigh's uncertain future may soon be resolved by their footballing neighbours, Horwich RMI, of the HFS Loans League, who are considering selling their premises for housing development and buying Leigh's ground. Under the scheme, Horwich would own Hilton Park, Leigh's home for 47 years, with the rugby league club remaining as tenants. The proposed deal needs the agreement of Keith Bell, a former chairman of Leigh, who still holds the title deeds. Gary Hetherington is to step down after seven years as coach to Sheffield Eagles but is staying on as chairman and team manager.

Brawl mars contest

ICE HOCKEY: A brawl erupted at the end of the world championship match between Germany and France in Dortmund yesterday. The game, which Germany won 5-3, had just finished when the players of both teams left their benches and began fighting, many throwing their gloves onto the ice to engage in fisticuffs. The championship mascot, "Bully", a man dressed in a penguin suit, tried in vain to separate the fighting players. It was not clear who started the brawl, which went on for several minutes before the referee and coaches were able to line up the teams for the national anthems. On Tuesday, the referee had to interrupt play several times to pick up objects thrown on to the ice by a disappointed crowd in Germany's 5-0 defeat by the Czech Republic, but against France the supporters behaved impeccably.

Favourites survive

RACKETS: Norwood Cripps, the Eton professional, and the rapidly improving Peter Brake, of Queen's Club, survived an exciting tussle against David Johnson, the Queen's head professional, and Thomas Brudenell in their opening match of the Lacoste British open doubles championship. Cripps and Brake started strongly, retrieving well and making the most of any winning openings from their experienced opponents. The astute Johnson, well backed up by the powerful Brudenell, snatched the third game and pressed the favourites hard before losing the fourth 18-15.

Johnston prospers

BOWLS: Margaret Johnston, the women's world champion, enhanced her chances of reaching the semi-finals of the Mazda Jack High tournament at Tweed Head, on the Gold Coast of Australia, yesterday when she beat Richard Corsie, the men's world indoor champion, in three sets. Johnston coasted through the opening set, winning it 9-2, but Corsie hit back to take the second 9-4. Johnston dominated the decider, however, prevailing 9-1. "I was never at the races," Corsie said. "Margaret completely outbowled me and deserved her win. Indeed, I was lucky to win the second set."

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FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Ipswich 2, Fulham 1 Second division: Swansea 4, Bournemouth 0

Late results on Tuesday

PREMIER LEAGUE: Middlesbrough 3, Tottenham Hotspur 0

BARCLAYS LEAGUE: First division: Bristol City 0, Derby 0; Leicester City 4, Southend 1, Oxford United 2, Peterborough 1. Second division: Swansea 3, Huddersfield 0 Third division: Barnet 1, Bury 0; Colchester 2, Northampton 0; Crewe 1, Scunthorpe 0, Scarborough 1, Shrewsbury 2; Torquay 1, Lincoln 2

AUTOGLASS TROPHY: Area final, second leg: Stockport County 2, Wigan Athletic 0 (Stockport win 3-2 on agg).

WELSH CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Wrexham 1, Cardiff City 0 (Cardiff win 2-1 on agg).

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Bath 0, Kettering 0; Macclesfield 1, Runcorn 1; Merthyr Tydfil 1, Yeovil 1; Stafford 3, Bromsgrove 4, Witton 1, Farnborough 1

DRINKWISE CUP: Final, first leg: Northwich 0, Wycombe 0

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Airdrieonians 3, Hibernian 1; Celtic 1, Falkirk 0, Dundee 0, Dundee United 4, Motherwell 2, Heart of Midlothian 1, Partick Thistle 1, Aberdeen 3

UEFA CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Auxerre (Fr) 2, Borussia Dortmund 0 (aet, agg 2-2, Borussia won 5-5 on pens).

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Grays 2, Stevenage 1, Hayes 2, Bognor Regis 0; Hendon 1 Harrow 2, Kingstonian 0, Wivenhoe 1; Marlow 0, Basingstoke 0. First division: Abingdon Town 2, Leyton 2; Wembley 1, Barking 1 Second division: Banstead 0, Worthing 3; Barton 2, Saffron Walden 2; Berkhamsted 6, Hampton 1; Hemel Hempstead 1, Met Police 0; Newbury 0, Harefield 1, Southall 1, Tilbury 0 Third division: Tring 3, Feltham 1

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barrow 4, Goole 1, Frickley 0, Droylsden 1, Morecambe 2, Bishop Auckland 1

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Barclays Commercial Services Cup: Final: Second leg: Dover 2, Slourbridge 1 (agg 2-3) Premier division: Hastings 1, Corby 2 Midland division: Bedworth 0, Barn 1, Gresley 2, King's Lynn 1; RC Warwick 2, Hinckley 2, Tamworth 1, Forest Green 1 Southern division: Buckingham 1, Dunstable 1, Burnham 2, Ashford 0, Newport (IoW) 1, Erith and Belvedere 2.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Caerswa 0, Holywell 1; Maesteg Park 0, Ebbw Vale 2, Llanidloes 3, Connah's Quay 2.

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Aston Villa 4, Blackburn 1; Barnsley 1, Nottingham Forest 1, Sunderland 3, Sheffield Wednesday 0. Second division: Everton 1, Blackpool 0; Preston 2, Middlesbrough 3.

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE: National: Atlanta 5, Florida 4; Montreal 7, Los Angeles 3; Philadelphia 4, San Diego 3 (14 inns); Cincinnati 5, Pittsburgh 0, San Francisco 4, New York Mets 1 (11 inns), Chicago Cubs 2, Houston 1; St Louis 5, Colorado 0. American: Detroit 3, Texas 1; Chicago White Sox 2, Baltimore 1 (14 inns); Minnesota 10, Milwaukee 0; Kansas 9, Toronto 2; California 7, Cleveland 2; Oakland 9, New York Yankees 7 (10 inns), Boston 5, Seattle 2.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta 111, Indiana 102; Cleveland 105, Detroit 81, New York 109, Miami 97; Orlando 105, Washington 86; LA Lakers 107, Minnesota 95; Chicago 123, Philadelphia 94; LA Clippers 107, Dallas 98, Portland 115, Golden State 99; Sacramento 101, Utah 92.

BOXING

BRENTWOOD: WBA Penta-Continental light-middleweight title: Shaun Cummins (Leicester, holder) lo Mickey Hughes (Croydon), 11th rnd.

CRICKET

THE OVAL: England Under-19 335-4 (M Vaughen 163, M Dowman 79, J Daley 66 not out, M Walker 50) v Surrey II

BOWLS

GOLD COAST, Australia: Jack High tournament: Group A (Australia unless stated): D Stockham bt J Raelon (Ist), 9-5, 7-9, 10-8, M Johnston (Ire) bt R Corsie (Scot), 9-2, 4-9, 9-1; R Parrella bt Rebium, 9-0, 8-4 Group B: T Morris bt C Curtis, 9-6, 2-9, 9-7; M McMahon (HK) bt G Smith (Eng), 9-1, 7-9, 10-8; Cums bt D Shaw, 9-3, 8-9, 9-1.

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Midlands: Leicestershire 1, Staffordshire 5; Warwickshire 1, Northamptonshire 2 Positions (after fifth series): 1, Staffs, 15pts. 2, Warwicks, 9. 3, Northants, 9.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Play-offs (best of seven games). Buffalo 4, Boston 0 (Buffalo lead 2-0); Pittsburgh 7, New Jersey 0 (Pittsburgh lead 2-0), Quebec 4, Montreal 1 (Quebec lead 2-0); New York 5, Washington 4 (2OT: series level 1-1).

MUNICH: World championships: Pool A: Canada 4, Sweden 1; Italy 1, Switzerland 0. B: Finland 2, France 0; Czech Rep 5, Germany 0; Finland 1, US 1; Germany 5, France 3

MOTOR RALLYING

LOMBARD LONDON-SYDNEY MARATHON: Fourth day (Igls to Bratislava): 1, G Lorimer and G Smith (Ford Escort), 32min 35sec, 2, F Tuthill and A Showell (Porsche 911), 32.51; 3 T Daly and B Britt (Ford Mustang), 33.02; 4, C Short and N Starkey (Ford Escort), 33.12; 5, R Clark and A Moy (Ford Escort), 33.36; 6, S Dalgarno and S Taylor (Lotus Cortina), 33.51.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Lacoste British Open doubles championship: First round: G Barker and A Robinson bt D Watkins and A Lyons, 15-0, 15-0, 15-3, 15-3; N Cripps and P Brake bt D Johnson and T Brudenell, 15-5, 15-8, 13-16, 18-15, 15-6; C Hue Williams and H Angus bt O Bridgeman and A Orchard, 15-5, 15-2, 15-9, 15-8

SNOOKER

WOKING: Forte Hotels women's world championship: Semi-finals: A Fisher (Hadlow) bt A Farren (Nottingham), 7-3; S Hillyard (Christchurch) bt K Corr (Bourne), 7-2

SKIING

LES ARCS: World Cup Speed Skiing: 1km course: Men: 1, P Gotschel (Fr) 233.815kph (145.074mph; world record). Women: 1, A Cine (Can), 215.052kph

TENNIS

MONTE CARLO: Open tournament: Second round: U Stenlund (Swe) bt G Forget (Fr), 6-1, 6-1; R Krajicek (Holl) bt C-U Steeb (Ger), 7-5, 6-1; A Chesnokov (Russ) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro), 6-4, 6-3.

BARCELONA: Women's Open: First round (selected result): N van Lottum (Fr) bt C Wood (GB), 6-4, 6-4.

NOTTINGHAM: LTA satellite tournament: Women's first round (England unless stated): N Egorova (CIS) bt A de Giovanni (Fr), 6-4, 6-1; M Garcia (Sp) bt S Boulding, 6-4, 6-3; V Lake bt A Sidot (Fr), 6-3, 6-3; R Mawdsley (Aus) bt K Nugent (Ire), 6-3, 6-0; L Bos (Fr) bt J Humphreys (SA), 6-1, 6-1; C Hunt bt C Taylor, 6-4, 5-7, 7-5; A Wainwright bt S Parkhomenko (Rus), 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; S A Siddall bt S Tse (IoM), 6-0, 6-1; C Grumes (Ger) bt C Goy (Lux), 6-3, 6-0; L Richterova (Cz) bt K Holland, 6-1, 2-6, 6-4; A Castera (Fr) bt A Smith, 6-3, 6-3, P Piorkowski (US) bt A van Durren (Hol), 0-6, 6-4, 6-3, E Bond bt L Woodroffe, 5-7, 6-3, 6-0, N Chasovaya (CIS) bt M Seibold (Ger), 6-4 7-6; J Salmon bt C Billingham, 7-6, 6-1. Men's first round: N Adams bt S Scaiola (It), 6-4, 6-2; C Ferreira (SA) bt M Roberts (US), 6-3, 6-2; A Beust (Fr) bt M Calvelli (It), 6-4, 6-3; C Beecher bt J Smiszek (Fr), 7-5, 6-4; D Sapsford bt C Geyer (Ger), 6-1, 6-1; M Tebbutt (Aus) bt R Matheson (Scot), 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; L Matthews bt T Maeuws (Bel), 6-4, 7-5; W Arthurs (Aus) bt T Kempers (Holl), 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, J Hunter bt A Richardson, 6-1, 6-4; J Baily bt P Langhendt (Den), 7-6, 6-3, J Holmes (Aus) bt G Schapp (Holl), 7-6, 8-2

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

GM Vauxhall Conference

Altrincham v Witton

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Bromley v Sutton United

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Liverpool v Newcastle (7.0), Sheffield United v Leicester City; Leeds v Stoke (7.0).

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Wimbledon v Millwall

CRICKET

Tetley Bitter Shield

First day of four

CHELMSFORD: Essex v England A.

University matches

Second day of three

FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Kent.

THE PARKS: Oxford University v Glamorgan.

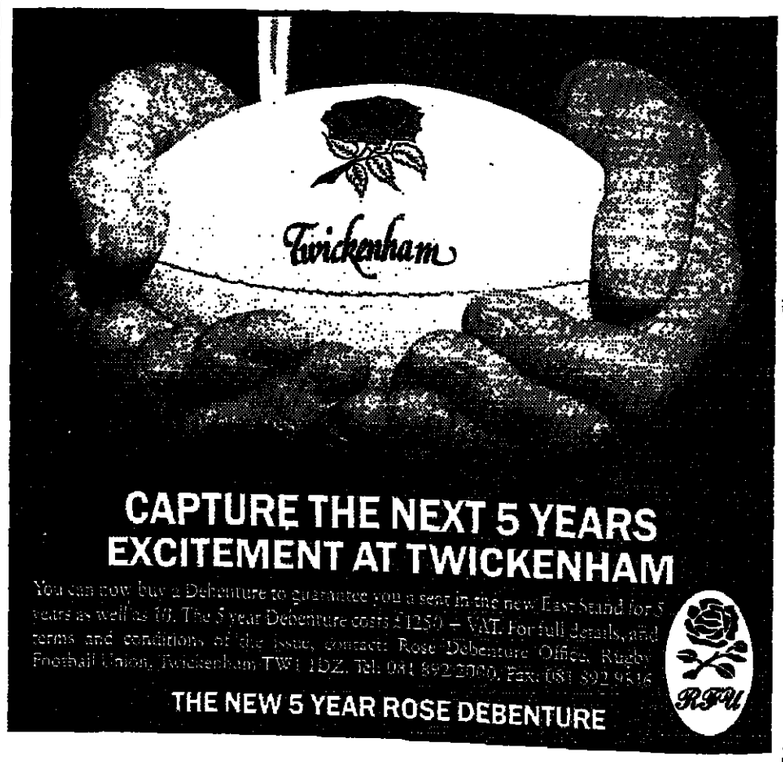
Other match

Third day of four

THE OVAL: Surrey II v England Under-19.

OTHER SPORT

SNOOKER: Embassy World championships (Sheffield).



Tenby in fine shape for Sandown

By Julian Muscat

PAT Eddery put Tenby through his paces at Newmarket yesterday as the colt completed preparations for his seasonal debut on Saturday.

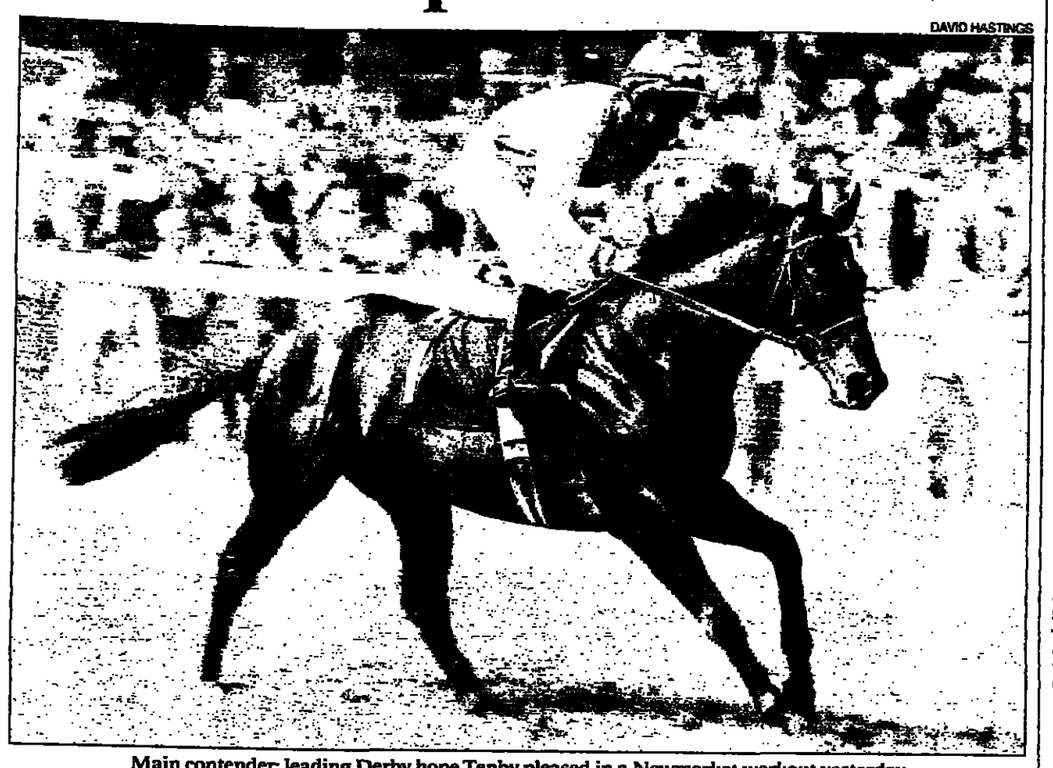
Connections were more than satisfied with the morning's work after Tenby strode out in a star-studded group of four, among them Armiger, who also pleased, and the mouth-watering prospect, Commander In Chief. These three horses are among the first four in Ladbroke's' ante-post list for the Blue Riband on June 3.

Henry Cecil pronounced Tenby, 4-1 favourite for the Derby, "in very good order"

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ABBEY'S GIRL
(3.15 Beverley)

Next best: Latin Leader
(3.45 Beverley)


DAVID HASTINGS

Main contender: leading Derby hope Tenby pleased in a Newmarket workout yesterday

after his colt completed the gallop on ground that is fast drying out.

The way is now clear for Tenby to take his place in the Thresher Classic Trial at Sandown, where he must concede 7lb all round as a result of his victory in group one company last year. Indeed, it was his routing of the Grand Criterium field in Paris that overwhelmingly established his Epsom credentials.

Cecil says of the apple of his eye: "He went fine; everything was good and he pleased us." Asked whether Tenby might force the pace if necessary on Saturday, the trainer replied: "I don't want to give too much away, but he has a good turn of foot so he doesn't have to make it."

Tenby will be stepping up to ten furlongs for the first time but both his pedigree and his style of racing suggest he will improve for the extra distance.

His sire, Caerleon, won the Prix du Jockey-Club (French Derby) over 12 furlongs and his dam, Shining Water, ran her best race when second in the 1987 Park Hill Stakes, otherwise known as the fillies' St Leger. Ironically, Shining Water was bettered on that occasion by Trampship, owned, like all three Cecil stable companions, by Khaled Abdulla.

Assuming all goes well at Sandown, Tenby's Derby preparation will involve him tackling another trial. However, plans remain fluid given the imminent seasonal reappearance of Armiger, 8-1 for the Epsom classic. "Armiger had some soreness in his back and I had to take it easy with him for a while," Cecil explained. "He's coming along nicely now; I could almost have him ready to run on Saturday if I had to."

Commander In Chief, too, may yet establish himself a front-line classic hope. This half-brother to Warning and Deploy is pencilled in for the Culford Stakes over 12 furlongs at the Guineas meeting, after which he may drop back to ten furlongs at York.

"If he is to make up into a Derby horse of any sort, he will need a couple more runs for experience," Cecil said. Clearly held in high regard, Commander In Chief is a 12-1 chance for Epsom despite being just a maiden winner.

Meanwhile, the recent Newmarket listed winner Placerville, yet another Abdulla-owned Derby candidate in Cecil's care, has a choice of engagements. He is in the Newmarket Stakes and the White Rose Stakes at Ascot, both over ten furlongs. The trainer also confirmed that Felucca will miss the 1,000 Guineas after failing to come to hand in time, allowing Pat Eddery to choose between Secrage and Lyric Fantasy. He will ride work on both fillies over the weekend.

Tenby is sure to get the lively ground his trainer wants for him. So quickly has the Sandown track dried out that clerk of the course Nick Cheyne felt obliged to water selectively yesterday.

BEVERLEY

THUNDERER

2.10 Cynic. 2.45 Nomadic Fire. 3.15 Shintillo. 3.45 Collier Bay. 4.15 Remany. 4.45 El Gahar.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.15 Shintillo. 3.45 Bay Queen. 4.45 EL GAHAR (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN STRAIGHT) SIS
DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.10 CAPTAIN STORIE MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,143: 5f) (5 runners)

1 3 HOPE HALL 5 R Whitaker 5-9-13 A Culhane 4
2 0 EXPORT MORENAI 26 J Eustace 3-8-13 M Tebbutt 5
3 0- LOA'S DELIGHT 237 M W Easterby 3-8-13 T Lucas 3
4 336- CLOUDY REEF 236 R Hollinshead 3-8-8 W Ryan 2
5 22- CYNIC 345 J Watts 3-8-8 G Duffield 1

6-4 Hope Hall, 2-1 Cynic, 7-1 Export Morenai, Cloudy Reef, 14-1 Loa's Delight.

2.45 BRIAN BOYES CLAIMING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,243: 1m 1f 207yd) (17)

1 LOCK TIGHT 8 Whitaker 5-1 A Culhane 16
2 004-0 ROMANTIC FIRE 14 D Morley 8-12 W Ryan 14
3 C-13 PALACEGATE SUNSET 3 (V,S) J Berry 8-12 J Carroll 4
4 -050 ASTRAL TRIO 10 S Norton 8-11 F Norton 6
5 C29- BACKSTABBER 178 J Speight 8-11 J Quinn 10
6 50-0 DIVINE RAIN 10 J Payne 8-11 R Cochrane 17
7 44-0 HASTA LA VISTA 15 M W Easterby 8-11 T Lucas 2
8 0- SOCIAL VISION 158 M Easton 8-11 M Birch 7
9 PRINCE PALACIO M Camacho 8-9 N Connorton 9
10 CLAIRSEATON J Watson 8-7 W Newnes 13
11 03-2 DANCES WITH EGO 14 N Littmoden 8-5 Dean McKeown 15
12 000- WORKINGFORPEANUTS 173 C Smith 8-4 M Wigham 8
13 5530 SPECIAL PHOBE 16 J Leigh 8-3 K Fallon 11
14 1-32 STAPLEFORD LASS 17 (D,BF,S) C Woods 8-1 W Woods 3
15 050- POPPY PRINCESS 145 J Bethell 7-12 K Darley 1
16 036- MAXX MONARCH 173 F Hogg 7-12 K Darley 5
17 -055 BARLEY CAKE 9 T Fairhurst 7-10 J Fanning 12

7-2 Palacegate Sunset, 4-1 Stapleford Lass, 6-1 Backstabber, 7-1 Romantic Fire, 9-1 Dances With Ego, 10-1 Maxx Monarch, 12-1 others.

3.15 CHARLES GREIG RATED STAKES
(Handicap, 3-Y-O: £6,326: 7f 100yd) (7)

1 02-1 INTRAZ 19 (D,F,S) J Thornton Jones 9-7 R Hills 5
2 14-1 ABBEY'S GAL 14 (D,S) J Balding 9-1 L Dettori 7
3 010- SILVERLOCKS 196 (D,F,S) Miss S Hall 9-0 N Connorton 1
4 122- CHEVROTAIN 224 (V,D,S) J Watts 9-0 M Roberts 6
5 001- SHINTILLO 171 (D,S) L Cumani 9-10 R Cochrane 4
6 2-04 PERSIAN REVIVAL 15 (F) B McMahon 8-10 T Quinn 3
7 0-02 MALLITOVER 9 (D,S) M Heaton-Ellis 8-9 W Ryan 2

11-4 Abbey's Gal, 7-2 Mallitover, 9-2 Shintillo, 5-1 Intraz, 8-1 Chevrotain, 10-1 Silverlocks, 20-1 Persian Revival.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: L Cumani, 3 winners from 16 runners, 50.0%; N Cecil, 13 from 33, 39.4%; I Balding, 14 from 41, 34.1%; J Dunlop, 5 from 15, 33.3%; J Fanshawe, 5 from 15, 33.3%; M Stoute, 12 from 43, 27.9%.

JOCKEYS: L Dettori, 9 winners from 25 rides, 36.0%; T Quinn, 7 from 27, 25.9%; M Roberts, 16 from 71, 22.5%; P Robinson, 6 from 31, 19.4%; W Ryan, 13 from 70, 18.6%; M Tebbutt, 5 from 17, 17.6%.

3.45 BRIAN OUGHTRED HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,752: 1m 1f 207yd) (10)

1 160- QAFFAL 212 (C,D) D Morley 9-7 R Hills 3
2 00-2 HE'S A KING 15 (BF) J Dunlop 9-12 T Quinn 5
3 444- MATARIS 198 P Walwyn 8-9 W Carson 6
4 64-3 LATIN LEADER 19 (BF,D) W Jarvis 8-5 P Robinson 8
5 536- FORT VALLY 196 R Akehurst 8-4 J Fortune 7
6 50-3 MOUSSAHIM 15 M Stoute 8-3 Paul Eddery 1
7 40-1 BAY QUEEN 14 (S) M Bell 8-3 M Fenton (5) 10
8 00-0 COLLIER BAY 27 J Gosden 8-3 J Carroll 9
9 0-45 HEATHYARDS HEAD 8 (C,BF,S) R Hollinshead 8-1 A Munro 2
10 60-0 PAAJIB 19 C Telmar 7-7 J Lowe 4

3-1 Collier Bay, 4-1 He's A King, 5-1 Moussahim, 6-1 Latin Leader, 8-1 Bay Queen, Heathyards Gem, 10-1 Qaffal, 12-1 Munro, 20-1 others.

4.15 GEORGE CULLINGTON HANDICAP (£3,390
1m 1f 207yd) (19)

1 155- REMANY 190 (CD,F) J Fanshawe 4-9-11 R Hills 15
2 40-0 VASILIEV 20 (B,G) J Dunlop 5-9-10 R Cochrane 12
3 4563 KATY'S LAD 10 (D,F,G,S) S Mellor 6-9-9 T Quinn 17
4 1233 SULEIMAN 19 (F) M Pipe 7-9-5 L Dettori 13
5 43-2 FIRST BID 20 (C,F,S) A Jarvis 5-9-5 J Fanning 4
6 0364 BRECKENBROUGH LAD 24 (D,S) T Barron 6-9-5 J Lowe 2
7 206 MULAWIH 15 Mrs J Ramsden 5-9-5 M Birch 11
8 344- NIMOKO 133 (CD,G) F Hogg 5-9-0 K Darley 6
9 240- ROYAL COMEDIAN 178 J Watts 4-9-0 J Quinn 16
10 000-1 ROMOLA NIJINSKY 8 (S) P Evans 5-8-13 (7ex) D Holland 14
11 05 DORADUS 37 J Jenkins Fitzgerald 5-8-12 K Fallon 19
12 12-8 AEGEAN LADY 14 (S) J Etherington 4-8-11 J Weaver (3) 10
13 30-0 SHADANZA 9 A Stringer 4-8-10 S Maloney (7) 5
14 0-60 SIE AMATO 10 J Watts 3-8-7 J Fortune 1
15 50-0 JOLI'S GREAT 10U (S) M Ryan 5-8-3 D Biggs 16
16 6-02 ANAR 8 (F) S Norton 4-8-1 D Pears (5) 9
17 0-50 PRIDE OF PENDLE 8 (C,F,S) P Calver 4-7-5 W Newnes 3
18 2114 TEMPERING 22 (D,BF,F) D Chapman 7-7-3 S Wood 8
19 0-3- BLYDSTKA 295 M Hammond 4-7-0 G Duffield 1

5-1 Anar, 6-1 Doradus, 7-1 Romola Nijinsky, 9-1 First Bid, 10-1 Remany, 12-1 Aegean Lady, Katy's Lad, 14-1 Suleiman, 16-1 others.

4.45 ALD WILLIAM HODGSON MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,640: 1m 100yd) (16)

1 BRESIL 504 A Jones 4-9-12 S Whitworth 10
2 0- CALYMAR 348U S Norton 3-8-12 D Pears (5) 7
3 000- CROLIER'S EXPRESS 33U (V) T Barron 4-9-12 J Lowe 3
4 ISLAND KNIGHT M Ryan 4-9-12 D Biggs 8
5 5 BRANDON GROVE 29 T Barron 5-9-7 Alex Greaves 1
6 2-0 LAURA 9 H Thomson Jones 4-9- R Hills 13
7 02- AL SENAFI 175 L Cumani 3-8-11 R Cochrane 6
8 62-4 BROWN'S 26 P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-11 D Holland 15
9 0- CHATOYANT 151 J Watts 3-8-11 G Duffield 14
10 2 EL GAHAR 14 H Candy 3-8-11 W Ryan 5
11 0 HADDAJ 15 S Dow 3-8-11 M Roberts 9
12 55-0 LT WELSH 14 I Balding 3-8-11 L Dettori 16
13 0-0 MUNTASHIR 14 J Dunlop 3-8-11 W Carson 12
14 40- APACHE SQUAW 188 C Thornton 3-8-6 N Connorton 4
15 MOST SUITABLE C Thornton 3-8-6 J Fanning 11
16 4 ZAAHEYAH 23 J Fanshawe 3-8-6 B Raymond 5

6-4 El Gahar, 9-2 Brown's, 6-1 Haddaj, 7-1 Al Senafi, 8-1 Brown's, 10-1 Laura, 12-1 Lt Welsh, 16-1 Apache Squaw, 20-1 others.

☐ Advocat's victory at Gowran Park yesterday gave Michael Kinane a winner on his first ride since returning to his Ireland after spending the winter in Hong Kong. The colt, trained by John Oxx, is owned by Shaikh Mohammed.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Beverley: 2.45 Palacegate Sunset

PERTH

THUNDERER

2.00 Cultured. 2.30 Break The Chain. 3.00 Fly By North. 3.30 Clay County. 4.05 On The Hooch. 4.40 Beachy Head.

GOING: SOFT SIS

2.00 MOET & CHANDON 250th ANNIVERSARY NOVICES HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £2,444: 2m 110yd) (11 runners)

1 1051 GAVEKO 28 (B,D,F,G) Jimmy Fitzgerald 11-7 M Dwyer
2 5132 CULTURED 45 (D,BF,S) J White 11-4 N Williamson
3 431 STORM DRUM 10 (S) K Bailey 11-4 G Bradley
4 0540 ABELONI 12 W Williams 10-12 L O'Hara
5 CLAN REEL R Gokkie 10-12 K Johnson
6 00 DENIM BLUE 12 W Reed 10-12 T Reed
7 6243 INAN 9 R O'Leary 10-12 P Niven
8 0 KINGARDINE BRIDGE 35 Mrs S Bradburne 10-12 P Williams (5)
9 0 MARCO-PIERRE 16 N Alexander 10-12 B Storey
10 QUARTZ HILL R Lamb 10-12 A Merrigan
11 00 ROSIN THE BOW 19 J Maxwell (Ire) 10-12 Mr B R Hamilton (5)

7-4 Cultured, 7-2 Storm Drum, 9-2 Gaveko, 7-1 Inan, 10-1 Abeloni, 12-1 Rosin The Bow, 16-1 others.

2.30 GLENGOYNE HIGHLAND MALT TAMEROSIA SERIES FINAL (Novices chase: £4,182: 3m) (6)

1 2113 BREAK THE CHAIN 19 (F,G,S) P Cheesbrough 8-11-12 Mr A Thornton
26/P231 FORTH AND TAY 10 (D,S) Mrs S Bradburne 11-11-9 P Williams
3 3132 TRUELY ROYAL 16 (S) J Charlton 9-11-9 B Storey
4 1336 ZAM BEE 19 (S) W Reed 7-11-9 T Reed
5 0603 MASTER MISCHIEF 17 (B) F Watson 6-11-5 K Johnson
6 PF45 CELTIC WATERS 41 Mrs D Thomson 8-11-0 .. Mr D Macdaggart

5-4 Break The Chain, 7-2 Zam Bee, 9-2 Truely Royal, 6-1 Forth And Tay, 16-1 Master Mischief, 20-1 Celtic Waters.

3.00 SPORTING LOUNGE AND OLYMPIC SUITE CLAIMING HURDLE (£2,304: 2m 110yd) (19)

1 4051 CAPTAIN TANCRED 19 (D,S) J Birkett 5-11-7 A Jones
2 0682 ARAGON AYR 33 P Monteith 5-11-6 M Moloney
3 4600 TROPNEVAD 12 (V) J Jefferson 5-11-4 P Niven
4 1-PP BLACKDOWN 10 (D,F) T Dyer 6-11-0 P Harley
5 2213 KIRSTENBOSCH 12 (BF,G) L Lungo 6-11-0 F Perratt (7)
6 P41 MAJORITY HOLDING 33 (D,F) J White 8-11-0 B Clifford
7 -000 AFARISTOUN 71 (D,F,G,S) J Edwards 9-10-13 .. Mr T Jenks (5)
8 0464 BATTLE STANDARD 10 (B,D,F,S) Mrs S Bramall 8-10-13 J Burke (7)
9 550/ FLAXON WORRIOR 876 A Le Blond 9-10-12 C Grant
10 3425 FLY BY NORTH 19 (BF,G,S) J Maxwell (Ire) 5-10-12 Mr B R Hamilton (5)
11 0000 HALSTON PRINCE 31 B Mactaggart 6-10-12 G McCourt
12 0000 NORTINO 72 (S) J Charlton 5-10-12 B Storey
13 329P RINGMORE 12 (D,F,G,S) J Parlee 11-10-12 M Dwyer
14 3318 CHARLYCIA 10 (V,G) T Carr 5-10-11 A Orkney
15 P53B KWACHA 13 (V) W Williams 7-10-10 L O'Hara
16 2FPP SOLO CORNET 12 (B,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 9-10-10 M Dwyer
17 4500 NODDINGS 24 (B) Mrs E Moscrop 4-10-5 P Midgley (5)
18 0000 PETTICOAT RULE 35 F Watson 5-10-5 K Johnson
19 SP0 RAITH PC 24 G Richards 4-10-5 B Harding (7)

3-1 Fly By North, 6-1 Kirstenbosch, 7-1 Majority Holding, 8-1 Charlycia, Solo Cornet, 10-1 Aragon Ayr, 12-1 Battle Standard, 16-1 others.

3.30 RMC CATHERWOOD LTD LITTLE BAY HANDICAP CHASE (£4,143: 2m) (4)

1 3411 LAST 'O' THE BUNCH 6 (D,F,G,S) G Richards, 9-12-3 (3ex) N Doughty
2 0114 CLAY COUNTY 23 (D,BF,F,G,S) R Allan 8-12-0 B Storey
3 2253 SPREE CROSS 12 (D,G,S) P Cheesbrough 7-10-4 ... K Johnson
4 23F4 SONSIE MO 17 (D,F,G) Mrs S Bradburne 8-10-0 P Williams (5)

7-4 Last 'O' The Bunch, 9-4 Clay County, 5-2 Spree Cross, 6-1 Sonsie Mo.

4.05 STAKIS DUNKELD HOUSE HOTEL INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE HANDICAP CHASE
(Amateurs: £2,851: 2m 4f 110yd) (9)

1 2122 RUN PET RUN 6 (D,G,S) P Monteith 8-11-10 T Jenks (5)
2 3102 KITTYKEER 47 (D,F,G,S) P Hobbs 12-11-9 G Lewis (7)
3 1F40 BAYARD BAY 10 (S) G Richards 9-11-6 J P Dempsey
4 2311U ON THE HOOCH 21 (D,F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 8-11-2 J Bradburne (5)
5 1434 LAPIAFFE 12 (D,F,G,S) A Harrison 9-11-2 P F Graffin
6 3126 CLONROCHE DRILLER 12 (D,G) Mrs S Bramall 8-10-11 D Parker (7)
7 0P0P DEADLINE 24 (B,D,G,S) S Chadwick 10-10-2 Miss P Robson (7)
8 -400 MOYODE REGENT 19 R Lamb 9-10-2 A Merrigan (7)
9 F440 PIT PONY 12 (S,S) Miss L Perratt 9-10-2 C Vigors (7)

11-4 On The Hooch, 4-1 Clonroche Driller, 9-2 Kittrigger, 6-1 Bayard Bay, 7-1 Lapaille, 10-1 Run Pet Run, 20-1 others.

4.40 TENNENTS 80/- HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,500: 2m 4f 110yd) (8)

1 -244 BEACHY HEAD 89 (D,G,S) J J O'Neill 5-11-11 M Dwyer
2 2045 BANDUR 40 (B,F) J Maxwell (Ire) 5-11-10 Mr B R Hamilton (5)
3 3554 TREE POPPY 8 (D,BF,S,S) C Brooks 10-11-1 G Bradley
4 234- FORWARD GLEN 10 (D,F) P Cheesbrough 6-10-12 C Grant
5 4332 KANNDARIL 12 (B,G,S) N Tinkler 6-10-12 G McCourt
6 R031 WILLIE SPARKLE 6 (C,D,F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 7-10-11 (6ex) P Williams (5)
7 1-13 THISTLEHOLM 194 (D,F,G,S) W Nelson 7-10-9 .. D Bentley (5)
8 6003 MARLINEFORD 10 (B,C,G,S) Mrs J Jordan 6-10-0 .. S Taylor (7)

3-1 Martinglord, 4-1 Willie Sparkle, 5-1 Bandur, 6-1 Tree Poppy, 7-1 Beachy Head, 10-1 Forward Glen, 12-1 Kanndaril, 14-1 Thistleholm.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Tinkler, 10 winners from 24 runners, 41.7%; Jimmy Fitzgerald, 4 from 13, 30.8%; Miss L Perratt, 8 from 27, 29.6%; C Brooks, 3 from 11, 27.3%; P Hobbs, 6 from 30, 20.0%; P Monteith, 12 from 65, 18.5%.

JOCKEYS: Mr A Thornton, 3 winners from 8 rides, 37.5%; G McCourt, 16 from 49, 32.7%; P Niven, 19 from 71, 26.8%; K Johnson, 8 from 32, 25.0%; M Dwyer, 22 from 89, 24.7%; G Bradley, 3 from 14, 21.4%.

Earle given whip ban

SIMON Earle was suspended for four days (April 30 to May 3) by the Cheltenham stewards for misuse of the whip on Dextra Dove, second to Sabaki River in yesterday's Oxenton Handicap Hurdle.

☐ John Webber's Auntie Dot, third to Seagram in the 1991 Grand National, has given birth to her first foal, a filly by Crested Lark.

CHELTENHAM

THUNDERER

2.15 Sylvia Beach (nap). 2.50 Shamana. 3.25 The Decent Thing. 4.00 Double Silk. 4.35 Quadrireme. 5.10 Annio Chilone. 5.40 Fine Thyne. 6.10 Call Home.

Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.25 THE DECENT THING.

Brian Beel: 4.00 Tenesaint.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.15 COLLINS AND DAY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,496: 2m 5f 110yd) (12 runners)

101 236F1 DONT TELL THE WIFE 22 (D,S) (H & K Commissions) Mrs D Haine 7-11-10 C Swan 87
102 5-56F02 YEOMAN WARRIOR 22 (Mrs H Alner) R Rowe 8-11-6 H Davies 87
103 234104 WINGS OF FREEDOM 12 (F) (American Potatoshing) J Jenkins 5-11-5 D Gallagher 95
104 166114 COURT CIRCULAR 40 (B S Ltd) W Clay 4-11-4 Diane Clay 92
105 3FF341 COMEDY SPY 10 (S) (Mrs J Burnett) Mrs A Howitt 9-11-4 (5ex) R Bellamy 96
106 143034 MR REINER 16 (D,F,S,S) (J Wade) J Wade 5-11-1 A Maguire 97
107 3-4232 SEDGE WARBLER 10 (Mrs P Robeson) D Sherwood 6-11-0 J Osborne 91
108 55-0161 PADDYSWAY 33 (F,S) (R Searle) G Ham 8-10-12 R Dunwoody 97
109 306221 CAMBO 18 (D,S,S)(M Banks) M Banks 7-10-11 D Skyrme (5)
110 224133 LITTLE BIG 181 (S) (C Brown) C Brown 6-10-9 A Carroll 93
111 62146P MISS SIMONE 133 (S) (J Cook) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-9 C Llewellyn 90
112 0-04313 SYLVIA BEACH 26 (BF,F,S) (G Greenwood) P Murphy 7-10-8 E'Murphy 93

BETTING: 7-2 Dont Tell The Wife, 4-1 Sedge Warbler, 11-2 Cambo, Paddysway, 7-1 Yeoman Warrior, 8-1 Sylvia Beach, 10-1 Comedy Spy, Wings Of Freedom, 12-1 others.

1992: ARDRIE 7-10-3 R Dunwoody (9-2) Mrs S Oliver 20 ran

FORM FOCUS

DONT TELL THE WIFE beat YEOMAN WARRIOR (4lb better off) 4l in 25-runner Worcester (2m 5f 110yd, soft) novice hurdle. WINGS OF FREEDOM 16l 4th of 11 to What R In Towcester (2m, heavy) handicap hurdle. COURT CIRCULAR 14l 4th of 7 to Be Known Best in Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to firm) hurdle. COMEDY SPY beat Rinnoushi 14l in 7-runner Uttoxeter (3m 110yd, heavy) novice hurdle. SEDGE WARBLER 2l 2nd of 11 to Wild Bramble in Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, heavy) novice hurdle. PADDYSWAY beat Acsimore 4l in 11-runner Chepstow (3m, good to firm) novice handicap hurdle. CAMBO beat Tronchetto 8l to 13-runner Sedgefield (2m 5f 110yd, good) novice handicap hurdle. LITTLE BIG 8½l 3rd of 9 to Bellezza in Taunton (3m 3f 110yd, good) amateur riders' handicap hurdle.

Selection: PADDYSWAY

2.50 HOLMAN CUP HANDICAP CHASE
(£5,735: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)

201 R03221 SPACE FAIR 35 (CD,F,G,S) (Osborne House Ltd) R Lee 10-11-11 A Maguire 96
202 632142 FRAGRANT DAWN 19 (D,BF,F,G,S) (W O'Gorman) D Elsworth 9-11-6 P Holley 98
203 1P4121 SHAMANA 23 (CD,G,S) (Lord Northampton) D Nicholson 7-11-3 R Dunwoody 96
204 P/05224 NOHALIMDUN 10 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Ulceby Farms Ltd) M H Easterby 12-10-5 L Wyer 94
205 P/65234 ANNIO CHILONE 23 (D,F,G,S) (Mr Ward-Thomas) T Forster 9-10-2 C Llewellyn (5)
206 2-5431 CERTAIN STYLE 10 (CD,F,G,S) (The Bogey Partnership) J Old 10-10-0 T Grantham 91
207 3R-3R33 DR ROCKET 8 (D,BF,F,G,S) (The Rocketeers) R Dickin 8-10-0 D Meredith (3) 91
208 UH1P12 DR ROCKET 8 (D,BF,F,G,S) (The Rocketeers) R Dickin 8-10-0 D Meredith (3) 91
209 142235 DRIVING FORCE 22 (D,BF,F,S) (N Gill) M McCourt 7-10-0 D Gallagher 84
209 P6211F AIR COMMANDER 5 (D,F,G) (Midland Markets Ltd) Mrs P Joynes 8-10-0 T Wall 74

Long handicap: Certain Style 9-11, Dr Rocket 9-7, Driving Force 9-5, Air Commander 8-9

BETTING: 9-4 Shamana, 3-1 Space Fair, 100-30 Fragrant Dawn, 6-1 Annio Chilone, 7-1 Certain Style, 25-1 Air Commander, 33-1 Driving Force.

1992: KING OF THE LOT 9-11-1 R Dunwoody (2-1) D Nicholson 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

SPACE FAIR beat SHAMANA (2lb better off) 2l in 12-runner handicap chase over course and distance (good to firm). FRAGRANT DAWN 2½l 2nd of 6 to Boutzarelf in Grade II Martell Handicap Chase at Aintree (2m, firm). SHAMANA beat Touching Star 15l in 5-runner Sandown (2m, good) handicap chase. NOHALIMDUN 2½l 2nd of 6 to Maudlins Cross in Kelso (2m 1f, good to firm) handicap chase on penultimate start. AMARI KING beat Love Anew in 5-runner Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm) handicap chase. CERTAIN STYLE 17l 3rd of 6 to Dextra Dove in Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft) handicap hurdle. DR ROCKET head 2nd of 4 to Private Audition in Worcester (2m, heavy) handicap chase.

Selection: FRAGRANT DAWN

3.25 MINSTER LOVELL HANDICAP HURDLE
(£5,663: 2m 5f 110yd) (16 runners)

301 2-41263 JOPANINI 72 (C,BF,F,G,S) (N Bush) N Henderson 8-12-0 R Dunwoody 94
302 F11120 HIGH BARON 15 (BF,F,S) (R Allner) R Allner 6-11-9 A Maguire 93
303 12P52F LUMBERJACK 21 (D,B,G,S) (Elite Racing Club) C Egerton 9-11-8 C Llewellyn 96
304 22-3416 CRYSTAL BEAR 15 (F,S) (Lady Knutsford) T Forster 8-11-8 A Procter (5) 98
305 5633-20 MAJOR INQUIRY 15 (C,F,G) (Mrs T Brown) D Elsworth 7-11-3 P Hide (5) 97
306 00-02F3 SENDAI 37 (F,B,S) (Mrs M Tufnell) J Gifford 7-11-2 D Murphy –
307 22FP-6P ANDREW'S FIRST 21 (D,F,G,S) (J Hancock) M Wilkinson 6-11-0 M Perrett 97
308 1311B1 POSTAGE STAMP 27F (F,S) (P O'Donnell) J Pearce 8-10-12 L Wyer 90
309 1411-60 DAGOBERTIN 15 (S) (P Leonard) M Pipe 7-10-8 C Swan 91
310 641340 DAGOBERTIN 15 (S) (P Leonard) M Pipe 7-10-8 Peter Hobbs 97
311 52P566 MIDFIELDER 15 (F,S) (Rumstream '6') P Hobbs 7-10-7 S McNeill 98
312 135554 SAN LORENZO 15 (BF,G,S) (J Greig) K Bailey 5-10-5 R Davis (5) 99
313 1FPP/-5 THE DECENT THING 15 (D,G,S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 10-10-3 D Meredith (3) 97
314 105800 FAIRFIELDS CONE 3F (CD,G,S) (Mrs C Holder) R Dickin 10-10-0 D Bridgwater 96
315 02000-1 KNAVE OF CLUBS 15 (D,G,S) (B Cahill) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-0 P Holley 79
316 22P/P02 GALLEY BAY 79 (G) (Mrs N Duffield) Mrs P Duffield 7-10-0

Long handicap: Fairfields Cone 9-11, Knave Of Clubs 9-8, Galley Bay 8-5

BETTING: 7-2 Andrew's First, 4-1 Knave Of Clubs, 11-2 High Baron, 10-1 Sendai, San Lorenzo, 12-1 Crystal Bear, The Decent Thing, 14-1 Jopanini, Postage Stamp, Dagobertin, 16-1 Major Inquiry, 25-1 others.

1992: WICK POUND 5-10-5 T Grantham (14-1) J Old 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

JOPANINI 3½l 2nd of 10 to Easy Buck at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to soft) handicap hurdle. HIGH BARON 6l 2nd of 21 to Thumbs Up in valuable handicap hurdle over course and distance (good to firm). SENDAI 5½l 3rd of 22 to Fissure Seal in handicap hurdle here (3m 2f, good to firm). ANDREW'S FIRST beat Metal Oiseau (runner here yesterday) 1½l in 13-runner Liverpool (3m 110yd, good to firm) handicap hurdle. POSTAGE STAMP 25l 7th of 14 to Early Man in Kempton (3m 110yd, good to soft) handicap hurdle. Recently 11l 10th of 16 to Snow Board in Doncaster (2m 3f, good to firm) flat handicap. THE DECENT THING 11½l 5th of 14 to Dancing Paddy in Ascot (2m 110yd, heavy) handicap hurdle with CRYSTAL BEAR (same terms) 1l 6th, DAGOBERTIN (1lb better off) 5 1/4l 7th, HIGH BARON (2lb better off) 3l 10th and MAJOR INQUIRY (3lb better off) 16l last.

KNAVE OF CLUBS beat Smiles Ahead 20l in 13-runner Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, soft) handicap hurdle with SAN LORENZO (16lb better off) 9½l 4th and MIDFIELDER (21lb better off) 25½l 6th.

Selection: SENDAI

4.00 HOWARD E PERRY HUNTER CHASE
(Amateurs: £3,028: 3m 2f 110yd) (9 runners)

401 11-3111 DOUBLE SILK 20 (CD,F,G,S) (R Williams) R Williams 9-12-6 R Treloggen (5)
402 3FP-F11 GAELIC CHERRY 23 (F,S) (D Fletcher) D Fletcher 10-12-6 C Ward Thomas (7) 84
403 /P/-U111 TENESAINT 12 (C,F,G,S) (C Saunders) C Saunders 12-12-6 A Sansome (7) 92
404 U24-144 ARDESEE 6 (D,G,S) (D Windle) D Windle 13-12-0 J Windle (7) 82
405 13UPP- CELTIC LEISURE 328 (G) (G Tanner) Mrs R Vickery 9-12-0 Miss S Vickery (7) 71
406 64P0-44 CELTIC TRUST 27 (S) (S Robinson) S Robinson 10-12-0 Simon Robinson (7) 72
407 /651/0 FRENCHMANS FANCY 12 (S) (R Jenks) R Jenks 12-12-0 Mrs C Worthington (7) –
408 21F-22 HIGHLAND ECHO 48 (D,F) (Mrs J Edwards) Mrs J Edwards 10-12-0 Mrs C Worthington (7) 71
409 52054-5 KINGSWOOD KITCHENS 12 (F,G) (Mrs E Ludlow) P Clarke 13-12-0 P Clarke (7) 74

BETTING: 4-5 Double Silk, 9-4 Tenesaint, 5-1 Gaelic Cherry, 10-1 Ardesee, 12-1 Highland Echo, 20-1 others.

1992: SPEAKERS CORNER 9-11-13 Mr H Brown (9-4) M Sowersby 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

DOUBLE SILK beat Dark Dawn 6l in 27-runner Aintree (2m 6f, good to firm) hunter chase. GAELIC CHERRY beat Fifth Amendment short-head in 8-runner Sandown (3m 110yd, good) hunter chase. TENESAINT beat Moor Scope 7l in 10-runner Towcester (3m 1f, heavy) hunter chase, with KINGSWOOD KITCHENS 20l 5th.

Selection: DOUBLE SILK

4.35 CLARK WHITEHILL JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £3,180: 2m 1f) (9 runners)

501 0111 NOCATCHIM 27 (B,F,G,S) (Miss N Carroll) S Sherwood 11-7 J Osborne 87
502 3P01 CARIBOO GOLD 12 (S) (Shaikh Marwan Al Maktoum) K Bailey 11-4 J Railton 79
503 51 QUADRIREME 28 (F) (W Sturt) J Old 11-4 T Grantham 80
504 126102 HER HONOUR 21 (D,G,S) (Mrs A Farrant) M Pipe 11-2 C Swan (3) 82
505 223 ELABJER 29 (BF) (M Woodall) P Evans 11-0 A Maguire 77
506 60045 OVER THE ODDS 44 (J Wade) J Wade 11-0 K Jones 58
507 360 SHEER POWER 192 (J Stale) R Rowe 11-0 G Rowe 59
508 1P02 SENE SPIRIT 34 (B) (Mrs J Powell) N Twiston-Davies 10-9 C Llewellyn 55
509 039604 MADAM PICASSO 18 (R Scorgie) N Mitchell 10-9 G Upton 71

BETTING: 8-11 Her Honour, 5-2 Macedicus, 9-2 Quadrireme, 12-1 Caribou Gold, 20-1 Elabjer, 66-1 Over The Odds, Sheer Power, Sene Spirit, Madam Picasso.

1992: ABSALOM'S LADY 4-10-12 Richard Guest (21-20) G Balding 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

NOCATCHIM beat Briggs Lad 19½l in 5-runner Ludlow (2m, firm) novice hurdle. CARIBOO GOLD beat Our Man In Havana 7l in 13-runner Uttoxeter (2m, good to soft) maiden hurdle. QUADRIREME beat Two Way Mirror 20l in 5-runner Wincanton (2m, firm) novice hurdle. HER HONOUR 1¼l 2nd of 8 to Tilted Dancer in Grade II Glenlivet Anniversary Hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good to firm).

Selection: HER HONOUR

5.10 CHELTENHAM SPONSORSHIP CLUB N

Richards remains in class all of his own

By Michael Henderson

THE PARKS (first day of three: Glamorgan won toss): Glamorgan have scored 463 for two wickets against Oxford University

IN THE froth and bubble that attended Ian Botham's disclosure that this season would be his last, it should not be forgotten that the game will soon be poorer for the loss of another cricketer whose career justifies that rarest of adjectives, incomparable. This is also the last year for Vivian Richards, possibly the greatest of all post-war batsmen.

There is plenty of time to offer more substantial eulogies and certainly more appropriate occasions than an April fling in the Parks. As with Sobers before him, no sensible cricket-lover will miss the chance to cast their eyes for the last time on a player only slightly lower than the angels.

An enterprising sculptor could do worse than make a bronze bust of Richards in repose at the crease to remind future generations of what a classical stance looks like.

The years have not diminished an ounce of its majesty; unfortunately, it would take a Rodin to do it justice.

As these students are familiar with the concept of the private tutorial, they must have welcomed the getting of wisdom. Arriving at tea, when Hugh Morris retired hurt on completing the first of the day's three centuries, Richards went to his own hundred in 94 balls. Matthew Maynard, who beat him to it, needed two more.

Like Pinky and Perky, they clearly belong together. At first, Richards outstripped Maynard, who is not exactly Mr Nudge And Block It, by three runs to one.

Challenged thus, the younger man finished the day a single in front, with 110. In two hours of delight, they made 233.

The last time Richards played here was in his first year on the Somerset staff. At this stage of his career, 19 years on, he will not run if he does not have to.

Seven of his first nine scoring strokes were boundaries and, strictly speaking, one of the other two was as well, MacDonald clawing the ball back at long leg.

Unbowed, Oxford kept it up commendably. Craig Lyons, their South African wicketkeeper, enjoyed a good day behind the stumps and Malik took an exceptional catch in the gully, when James reached for a wide half-volley. Neither Richards nor Maynard patronised the bowlers. It was batting of a very high order.

Michael Jeh, whose bowling went for 156, was happy to pose with his main tormentors at stumps in front of a scoreboard which, as it had done all day, revealed the wrong total. For Glamorgan, everything else about the day was right, resoundingly so.

GLAMORGAN: First Innings

S P James c Malik b Yeabsley	41
*H Morris retired hurt	109
A Dale b Malik	67
M P Maynard not out	110
I V A Richards not out	108
Extras (b 3, lb 6, w 4, nb 14)	27
Total (2 wkts)	463

P A Cottey, R D B Croft, R P Lefebvre, †C P Metson, S L Watkin and S R Barnett to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-78, 2-220.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: G I MacMillan, *G S T Lovell, C M Gupte, C L Keay, H S Malik, M P W Jeh, †C Lyons, R Oliphant-Callum, R S Yeabsley, A MacLay, R H MacDonald.

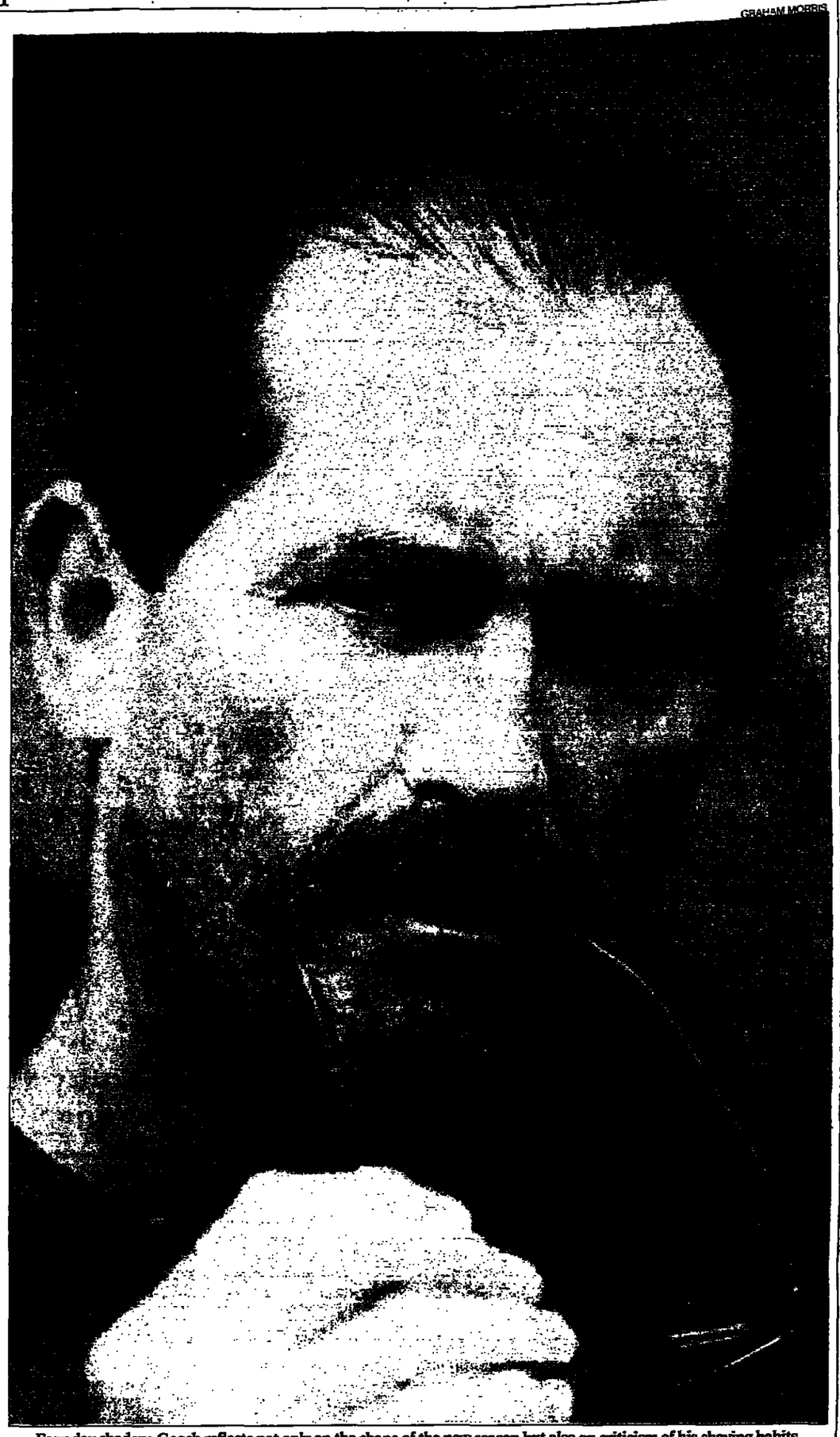
Umpires: J W Holder and V A Holder.

Marketing men's pitch must accord with cricket's valued traditions

Experiment expected to confound its critics

Alan Lee believes that sweeping changes in the domestic game offer a brighter outlook for England than diehards are suggesting

GRAHAM MORRIS



Four-day shadow: Gooch reflects not only on the shape of the new season but also on criticism of his shaving habits

April, traditionally the month of unqualified optimism for cricket followers, has this year been a period of despondency around the land. The gloom came, naturally enough, from England's winter follies. But perspective has been lost. Now, we are hearing from the malcontents that our youth is soft, our system senseless, our game as good as doomed.

All this, before a ball has been competitively bowled in what is actually a season of rare promise, containing an Ashes series and a radically reformed county programme.

If the darkest hour really is before the dawn, many are defying the alarm clock and staying under the bedclothes.

Today at Chelmsford, the season, first-class in name only during the past week of gentle masquerades at the universities, begins in earnest with a match that could have been designed for the doomsters.

On one side is Graham Gooch, stubble and slouch intact, reputation badly damaged by the failure of his England team in India and Sri Lanka. On the other are the young men on whom England's future depends. And this opening act is a four-day game.

It is billed as Essex, the county champions, against England A, but herein are encapsulated the woes of the depressed cricketing nation — an England captain who has passed rapidly from superman to ordinary mortal, a new generation of talent in which faith has surrendered to fickle derision, and a structure of match that is being condemned on false grounds before it has even been properly tried.

In a week from now, the county championship begins in revolutionised form. For the first time, it will be a competition in which each team plays the other only once, within a clear programme and over a distance that will allow the better team to emerge.

Some of us wonder why the four-day championship has been so long in coming but when it was finally accepted, last May, there was barely a dissenting county. Now, on the back of a deflating winter, we are hearing that it will be boring, counter-productive and costly.

All utter nonsense. Taken in order, the boredom factor is the vehicle of minds which are either spoilt by hit-and-giggle cricket or simply forgetful of the facts.

Is a five-day Test match a recipe for tedium? Is any match unwatchable which gives full scope for all the skills and then produces a positive and genuine result?

In four-day cricket, the better team invariably wins without recourse to the concessions and collusion that rendered so many three-day games things of farce. The statistics of the past few years emphatically make the point.

The argument that the longer game is counter-productive, creating only clones who can occupy the crease interminably or bowl endless overs of negative medium pace, will have some substance if the groundsmen fail the experiment and offer a sequence of bland surfaces.

They must not and, despite uninformed claims to the contrary, it is not their brief to do so.

We do not need a return to the bowler-friendly years of green pitches and high-seamed balls but, to sustain purpose in a game when it sometimes seems easier to let things happen, pitches must offer bounce, reasonable pace and, latterly, spin. This, incidentally, is according to the doctrine of the much-maligned Test and County Cricket Board. The cost factor is a red herring. Most counties long since ceased to make more than pocket money from championship cricket and membership fees, relying for their sustenance, like it or not, on the annual hand-out from international income.

Refocused marketing can minimise any loss in income from the new system and I am unconvinced that the majority of members are as hostile as the vocal few have us believe. It is this same reactionary group that leads the chorus claiming ours is now a game run by and for the marketing men. Linking this with four-day cricket is bogus, as most marketing men dream of a diet of "packaged" one-day games, but someconcern is justified.

First, the defence. Without marketing, cricket would lag still further behind other enlightened entertainments, missing financial opportunities and consigning the game to poverty and oblivion. Presently, cricket has a higher profile than ever before; the benefits are obvious.

The downside is that the cart can sometimes lead the horse and the game can descend into the confusion whereby this year's Sunday League, now played over 50 overs a side but in circus outfits, is posing as better cricket for the purists but colourful theatre for the passing trade.

Worse, it can become vulgar, hence the heavily criticised dress of the England team on tour. Which leads us back to Gooch. How he decorates his chin should be of no concern to anyone. The sensitive area is beadgear and T-shirts, supplied by one of the multitude of team sponsors whose funds depend on their leisure wear being photographed on the right bodies. It is here that the pudding has been over-egged, here that the marketing men must be reined in.

If, however, Gooch continues to wonder what all the fuss is about in this area, he is as concerned as anyone regarding England's playing efforts. But rationally so. "It's all black and white, isn't it?" he mused this week. "When we win, we're brilliant, and when we lose, we're bloody idiots. Nothing in between."

Gooch is no longer surprised by such over-reaction. He knows that if Australia can be beaten — and they can — he will again be feted, the new generation will once more be deemed rich in talent and even the four-day game might be given a fair trial.

Rule changes

1. All matches in Britannic Assurance Championship to be played over four days, the regular schedule involving play on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday.
2. The Sunday League, now sponsored by Axa Equity and Law, to be played over 50 overs per side, matches starting at noon. Each county has individual coloured strip and white balls are to be used.
3. The Benson and Hedges Cup group stage has been scrapped. Now a straight knockout competition, with five matches in a preliminary round to produce a final 16
4. Bonus points in championship cricket: first batting point now gained for 200 runs rather than 150, and 120 overs, rather than 100, available. A new ball can still be taken after 100 overs.
5. A two-run penalty will be imposed for a no-ball in all domestic cricket.

Llong's best innings saves Kent

By Jack Bailey

FENNER'S (first day of three: Cambridge University won toss): Kent have scored 273 for six wickets against Cambridge University

BEFORE Llong and Marsh came together in a partnership worth 125 for the sixth wicket, and Llong went on to a career-best 99 not out, jocular words from the Kent players that they had come to Fenner's as underdogs, in the wake of last year's defeat by Cambridge, bore an ominous ring of truth.

Five good wickets had gone down for 107 runs, the Cambridge attack, for the most part ably supported in the field, had displayed old-fashioned virtues of length and line, and last season's runners-up in the county championship were coping anything but competently.

What is more, Taylor, their early mainstay, had survived two chances on his way to 34, and what hustle and bustle there was had been contributed by the university's bowlers. With names like Haste and Pitcher featured large in the Cambridge ranks, this was not altogether surprising. But fresh from their tour of Zimbabwe, Kent must have expected better.

Again, it was the tried and tested that saw Kent recover on a pitch lacking in pace. Both Llong and Marsh set aside the flamboyant in favour of the straight bat and firm dismissal of the over-pitched or short ball. There were not too many of these. Pearson and Whittall, both over six feet tall, bowled their off spinners with guile, and the three-man seam attack kept the ball up to the bat.

Where matters chiefly went wrong for Cambridge were with Llong's left-handedness and his deftness off his legs. He also drove well on the off side as his innings prospered, and cut fiercely when the bowlers tried to adjust. Marsh, always the man for a crisis, missed few chances to score safely in his perky way. By the time Headley came in to make his debut for Kent, his county were out of danger, although for Llong it will be a nervous night.

Llong has already survived one chance, when he lofted Pearson in and out of mid-on's upstretched hands. He had made but 11. Disappointing for Pearson though this and the day's final stages may have been, he should draw comfort from his captaincy, which saw Cambridge bowl their overs at a rate of nearly 19 an hour, and from his bowling, which so nearly put Kent on the floor.

KENT: First Innings

T R Ward c Arscott b Charlesworth	17
J I Longley b Pitcher	2
N R Taylor lbw b Pearson	34
G R Cowdrey c Haste b Charlesworth	13
N J Llong not out	99
M V Fleming c Whittall b Pearson	17
*†S A Marsh c Arscott b Whittall	57
D W Headley not out	18
Extras (b 3, lb 6, w 1, nb 6)	16
Total (6 wkts)	273

A P Igglesden, C Penn and R P Davis to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-22, 3-63, 4-83, 5-107, 6-232.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: G W Jones, R Cake, J P Carroll, G M Charlesworth, J Leppard, M E D Jarrett, †J P Arscott, *R M Pearson, A R Whittall, N J Haste, C M Pitcher.

Umpires: J H Hampshire and D O Oslear

☐ West Indies have announced an unchanged party for the second Test match against Pakistan, starting in Bridgetown, Barbados, tomorrow. West Indies, who won the first Test in Trinidad by 204 runs, are seeking their twelfth consecutive victory at Kensington Oval. They have not lost in Barbados since 1935.

WEST INDIES (from): R B Richardson (captain), D L Haynes, P V Simmons, B C Lara, K L T Arthurton, C L Hooper, J C Adams, J R Murray, C E L Ambrose, I R Bishop, C A Walsh, A C Cummins, W K M Benjamin.

☐ India will play three Test matches and three one-day internationals during their tour of Sri Lanka in July and August, the Indian cricket board said yesterday. In Sri Lanka in 1985, the host nation recorded their only Test win over India.

Injury problem may force Foster into retirement

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

NEIL Foster and Salim Malik, key components of Essex's attempt to retain the county cricket championship, both miss the showpiece opening game of the season against England A, which starts at Chelmsford today, but for contrasting reasons.

Malik's absence is purely short-term. Returning for a second spell as Essex's overseas player, he fell victim to Pakistani bureaucracy earlier this week and was refused a visa to leave the country until the authorities had sight of his British work permit.

Essex have now sent the document to Islamabad by facsimile but, greatly to the irritation of a player who has had no recent first class cricket, Malik will not arrive in London until tomorrow, delaying his reappearance until the Benson and Hedges Cup tie in Forfar next Tuesday.

More worrying for Essex is the recurrent knee injury that has discounted Foster. Surgery in the winter, followed by an intensive period of rehabilitation, appeared to have given Foster a real chance of getting through the season, but the knee is once more causing him serious discomfort.

"It's not good news" was the gloomy reaction of Peter Edwards, the chief executive of Essex, yesterday. Indeed, although Foster has seldom been entirely free of pain since undergoing back surgery a dozen years ago, he is approaching 31 and facing the threat of enforced retirement.

Essex believe that a shoulder injury to Mike Garnham, their wicketkeeper, will have eased enough for him to play today and are likely to omit Jon Lewis and Steve Andrew from a squad of 13.

Their bowling attack will be led by Mark Ilott, who could find himself in a prolonged head-to-head duel with Somerset's Andy Caddick for an England place later this summer. As Caddick is included in the A team, for whom he excelled in Australia earlier this year, this game provides an early chance to compare their claims.

Some of the brightest batsmen in the country are on show and Graham Gooch, the Essex and England captain, will be keen to have a close look at Mark Lathwell and John Crawley, in particular.

ESSEX (from): G A Gooch (capt), J P Stephenson, P J Prichard, N Hussain, N V Knight, J J B Lewis, D R Pringle, M A Garnham, M C Ilott, T D Topley, P M Such, J H Childs, S J W Andrew.

ENGLAND A (from): M D Moxon (Yorkshire, capt), M A Roseberry (Middlesex), M N Lathwell (Somerset), J P Crawley (Lancashire), G D Lloyd (Lancashire), G P Thorpe (Surrey), D G Cork (Derbyshire), R C Russell (Gloucestershire), I D K Salisbury (Sussex), J P Taylor (Northants), A R Caddick (Somerset), J Boiling (Surrey)

Tudor steals march on challenge fleet

By Barry Pickthall

RICHARD Tudor and his British Steel II crew stormed through the British Steel Challenge round-the-world fleet yesterday as the early leaders were slowed by the South Atlantic high pressure system as it began to move eastwards towards them.

Tudor, whose crew has nothing to lose in taking a flyer away from the fleet after losing ten days on the leaders when they were dismasted during the second stage of the race, has been setting a solitary course well to the east of other yachts since the start of this final stage, from Cape Town. Yesterday, the tactic paid handsome dividends, for British Steel II moved up from last to first.

Commercial Union, the previous leader, skippered by Richard Merriweather, was quick to take a cue from British Steel's spurt. After gybing across, Commercial Union held second place.

For others, like Group 4 Securitas (Mike Golding) and John Chittenden's Nuclear Electric, fighting a private duel for first place overall, the drop back was almost as dramatic as British Steel's leap forward. Last night, both were struggling to better six knots, three knots less than the two pacesetters, who have built up a 30-mile lead.

Kevin Dufficy, a crew member aboard British Steel, said: "There is a lot to play for. For every yacht, the chance to be first boat into Southampton. For every crew member, the opportunity to say, 'I did it, I sailed round the world'."

Vivien Cherry, the skipper of Coopers & Lybrand, the third-placed yacht, was just as ebullient about its performance, despite the need to reform her sewing circle to repair a spinnaker that blew out last Sunday.

"The sailing and on-board routines are now worn like comfortable shoes. We all remember the spinnaker routines, the peels, checking for chafe and the will-power needed to keep the boat moving. We also remember the stitching, as our heavy-duty race spinnaker fell apart on us during the first night. It has now been repaired four times in the same area, so it is hardly surprising that that cloth is weak.

"At the start of this race seven months ago, we were the first out past the Needles. Our strongest desire now is to be first back as well."

LEADING POSITIONS (at 14:00 GMT yesterday, with miles to Southampton): 1, British Steel II (R Tudor), 5,171 miles; 2, Commercial Union (R Merriweather), 5,178; 3, Coopers & Lybrand (V Cherry), 5,197; 4, Heath Insured (A Donovan), 5,215; 5, Intersprav (P Jeffes), 5,221; 6, Group 4 Securitas (M Golding), 5,222; 7, Nuclear Electric (J Chittenden), 5,228; 8, Hofbrau Lager (P Goss), 5,230; 9, Pride of Teesside (I MacGillivray), 5,250; 10, Rhone-Poulenc (P Phillips), 5,254

Woosnam's worries ease beside Cruyff

From Mel Webb
in Vic, Catalonia

THE talk as the players prepared for the Catalan Open, which starts here today, was of footballers, then of horsemen and, almost but not quite an afterthought, golfers.

Ian Woosnam, making his first competitive appearance since finishing seventeenth in the US Masters, might have expected to have been accorded a small spotlight. Instead he found himself effortlessly upstaged by a couple of footballers.

Woosnam strolled on to the first tee in the pro-am, and was confronted by Johann Cruyff, now the manager of Barcelona but once the heart and soul of the brilliant Holland side of the Seventies. Alongside him was Andoni Zubizaretta, the Barcelona and Spain goalkeeper.

Cruyff wasted no time in establishing his golfing credentials. The first time he tried to hit the ball, he missed. The second time, he planted his ball into the water in front of the tee. His handicap of 28 seemed unkindly low.

Zubizaretta was, if anything, worse than his manager. Woosnam's advice to the pair? "Stick with the day job."

Woosnam, whose game has been plagued with self-doubt in recent times, revealed that the doubts he took with him to Augusta were partially left in Georgia when he came home. "I realised that I've got to stop thinking about my swing and get on with scoring well," he said. "It is certainly about time I had some good results."

On the face of it, the 6,727-yard Osona Montanya course is not the place for him to do it. He normally prefers a course that will allow him to use his enormous power off the tee. However, he was quick to point out that he can also perform on fiddly courses. He has, for example, won the Monte Carlo Open at Mont Agel three times.

There are superficial similarities between Mont Agel and Osona Montanya. Each is perched on the top of a mountain, neither is long, each requires patience.

The one big difference is that Mont Agel does not have an Olympic three-day event cross-country course weaving its way through it. Osona does. The water jump for last year's Olympic competitors comes dangerously into play on the 18th here.

Matt Ryan, of Australia, soared through the obstacle faultlessly on his way to an eventing gold medal. The field chasing a £50,000 first prize this week, which includes José María Olazábal, Colin Montgomerie and Steven Richardson, will do well to emerge as dry.

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (71025)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (32978919)
9.05 Verdict Will Hanrahan presents a new series of studio debates on the subject of the law, beginning with so-called "kiddie crime" (s) (1831396) **9.35 King of the Road.** Ross King and Anna Walker visit Stratford-upon-Avon (s) (7483764)
10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8477613) **10.05 Playdays** (r) (s) (7952667)
10.30 Good Morning . . . with Anne and Nick (88646990)
12.05 Pebble Mill. Judi Spiers is joined by Everything but the Girl (s) (4196700)
12.45 Good Morning . . . with Anne and Nick. An update of the morning's events (s) (14755464) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (37814990)
1.00 One O'Clock News with Edward Stourton (Ceefax) Weather (15396) **1.30 Neighbours.** (Ceefax) (s) (11030919)
1.50 Film: Robin and the Seven Hoods (1964) starring Frank Sinatra, Dena Martin, Bing Crosby and Sammy Davis Jr. The Robin Hood legend updated to Chicago during the 1928 Prohibition. Directed by Gordon Douglas (55319990)
3.50 Pingu. Animation (7173990) **3.55 Chucklevision** (r) (s) (5313193) **4.15 Happy Families** (r) (s) (5450613) **4.30 Tricks 'n' Tracks** Music and magic series (Ceefax) (s) (7133990)
4.55 Newsround (7036193) **5.05 Blue Peter.** (Ceefax) (s) (1435103)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (369919). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey (Ceefax) (209)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (261). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Top of the Pops (s) (9280)
7.30 EastEnders (Ceefax) (s) (445)
8.00 Mulberry. Comedy series starring Karl Howman and Geraldine McEwan (r). (Ceefax) (s) (2700)
8.30 Keeping Up Appearances Hyacinth arranges a candlelit dinner, hoping it will afford the chance of impressing her guest, Emmet, the director of the local operatic society, with her singing. Starring Patricia Routledge (r). (Ceefax) (s) (4735) Wales: Local Hero
9.00 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Liberal Democrats. (Ceefax) (257321)
9.05 News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (212919)
9.35 Sylvania Waters. (Ceefax) See Choice (901071)



Insane joke: comedienne Ruby Wax (10.05pm)

10.05 The Full Wax. (Ceefax) (s) See Choice (612280). Northern Ireland: They Call Me Mammy Now 10.55 The Full Wax
10.35 Question Time introduced by Peter Sissons in Manchester. The panel comprises Kay Coleman, a local businesswoman; Peter Jones, general director of English National Opera; and MPs Edwina Currie and Roy Hattersley (197209)
11.35 International Dancing. The Pioneer UK dance championships continue with the amateur modern competition (s) (265880). Northern Ireland: 11.25 Question Time 12.25am-1.00 International Dancing
12.10am Weather (4498149). Ends at **12.15**
2.15-2.45 BBC Select: Executive Business Club. Scrambled (77491)

BBC2

6.45 Open University
8.00 Breakfast News (8832087)
8.15 Westminster (5845261)
9.00 Film: It Happened on Fifth Avenue (1947, b/w) starring Don DeFore and Charlie Ruggles. Slight comedy about a tramp who squats in a millionaire's mansion. Directed by Roy Del Ruth (87906396)
10.55 Film: Lady For a Night (1941, b/w) starring Joan Blondell and John Wayne. Modest costume drama about a gambling queen who marries into the impecunious aristocracy to attain respectability. Directed by Leigh Jason (2429280)
12.25 Breakout. Adventure holidays (1725193) **12.30 The Children of the Federation.** Australian survivors of the Gallipoli campaign recall the action (4711025) **1.20 Noddy** (r) (s) (13721803) **1.30 Funnybones** (r) (s) (62706984) **1.35 Betjeman in Australia** (r) (18498071)
2.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (60022990) followed by **World Snooker** (s) (7459025). Northern Ireland: 2.25-3.15 approx Northern Ireland Question Time
3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (8538919) followed by **Westminster Live** (8682396) **3.50 News** (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8960193)
4.00 World Snooker (s) (3629)
6.00 Film: Bugles in the Afternoon (1952) starring Ray Milland. Routine western about a US cavalry officer branded a coward who vows to clear his name. Directed by Roy Rowland (7538990)
7.20 Animation Now. *Little Tinker* (227377)
7.30 First Sight: Coming Out in Force. A report on the initiatives the Metropolitan Police and other forces are launching to combat crimes against lesbians and gays (777). Wales: Bullies at Work!; East: Matter of Fact; Midlands: Midlands Report, North, North-east, North-west. Close Up North, South. Southern Eye; South-west: Close Up; West: Close Up West.
8.00 My Wilderness Reprieved. Phil Drabble continues his series on the future of the rural environment (Ceefax) (s) (1782)
8.30 Top Gear. Tiff Needell test drives the new Rover 200 coupe turbo (s) (2377)



Parody: Peter Richardson, Keith Allen (9.00pm)

9.00 The Comic Strip Presents . . . Detectives on the Edge of a Nervous Breakdown. (Ceefax) See Choice (537377)
9.35 World Snooker (s) (362272)
10.30 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Liberal Democrats (193648)
10.35 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman (566416)
11.20 World Snooker (s) (120822)
12.00 Weather (5279526)
12.05am Jumpcuts. A preview of the weekend's Open University programmes (5278897)
12.10 Open Advice: Becoming a Student. Advice on the academic student life (2014014). Ends at **12.40**

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CHOICE

True Stories: Wanted — Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid
Channel 4, 9.30pm

In the Paul Newman-Robert Redford film Butch and Sundance died in a hail of bullets in Bolivia after being cornered by police and troops. But no one is quite sure. One theory is that they escaped to Argentina and took up ranching. Another has them returning to the United States and dying peacefully in their beds. David Dugan's absorbing documentary follows a forensic anthropologist, Dr Clyde Snow, as he tries to establish the truth. The key to Snow's quest is the cemetery in Bolivia where the outlaws are supposed to be buried. The easy bit is digging up the bones. The hard part is identifying them. The sure thing is that Butch and Sundance looked nothing like Newman and Redford. The probability is that their deaths were less heroic than movie legend has it.



Feuding Aussies: Laurie and Noeline (BBC1, 9.35pm)

Sylvania Waters
BBC1, 9.35pm

A television event of the early 1970s was Paul Watson's *The Family*, a warts-and-all documentary about the Wilkinses of Reading. His new series is a family portrait from Australia. At its heart are Laurie Donahar and Noeline Baker, a middle-aged couple who have been together for 13 years, and their children from previous marriages. We open on a blazing row between the two over whether teenage son Michael should have a birthday party. "I can't be nice and I can't be Joan Collins", says the fiery Noeline, who is destined to be as much a star of the show as Mrs Wilkins was in 1974. *Sylvania Waters* is billed as a true-life *Neighbours*. With its incessant shouting matches it is more like an Aussie *EastEnders*.

The Comic Strip Presents . . .
BBC2, 9.00pm

The Comic Strip team is back with six more jolly japes, starting with a parody on television detectives. The targets are accurate but it helps if you have a long memory. I was stumped by "Jason Bentley of Department Z" until research suggested that this velvet-jacketed smoothie was inspired by a 1970 series called *Department S*. But I had no trouble with Jim Broadbent's hilarious send-up of John Thaw in *Sweeney* days or recognising Bonehead and Foyle as the thug-heroes of *The Professionals*. Spender is called Spanker but has the same Geordie accent and three-day stubble. If I dwell on the individuals it is because they are funnier than the plot. Keith Allen and Peter Richardson wrote, directed and play most of the parts.

The Full Wax
BBC1, 10.05pm

Ruby Wax is too brash and noisy to be my idea of fun but for those who think otherwise her new series should not disappoint. The over-exposed Billy Crystal, who only last Saturday enjoyed 35 minutes of BBC1 screen time with Terry Wogan, is the star guest. To his credit he does not mention the name of his latest film and to Ruby's credit she does not ask him. Otherwise the show is an extended gag at the expense of Joanna Lumley, pretending to be a mental patient whom Ruby is nursing back to sanity. Lumley enters into the spirit like the good trouper we know her to be but one joke is made to go a long way. **Peter Waymark**

ITV LONDON

6.00 GMTV The guests include Richard Gere. In the *Missing* slot at **8.15** the focus is on Ian Grayburn, a 32-year-old married civil servant with two young daughters, who set out for work in Macclesfield last July and has not been seen since (7681193)
9.25 Lucky Ladders Word game (s) (7024803) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (7938087)
10.00 The Time . . . The Place . . . (4640025)
10.35 This Morning Weekday magazine (88647629)
12.10 The Riddlers. Infants' entertainment (8206087)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (4879713) **1.05 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (93435551)
1.15 Home and Away (Teletext) (757754) **1.45 A Country Practice** (s) (756025)
2.15 The View Loyd Grossman with viewers' comments on television programmes and the people who appear on them (749006) **2.45 Take the High Road** Highlands-based drama serial (4679754)
3.10 ITN News headlines (8549025) **3.15 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (8548396)
3.20 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz for teenagers (s) (1461532)
3.50 Garfield and Friends (r) (5227342) **4.15 Rolf's Cartoon Club** with Rolf Harris (r) (6081602) **4.35 Tiny Toon Adventures** (7134629) **5.00 Cartoon** featuring Foghorn Leghorn (5021648)
5.10 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (3743862)
5.40 Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (986735)
6.00 London Tonight. (Teletext) (23754)
7.00 Emmerdale. (Teletext) (1648)
7.30 Storyline. An investigation into the disturbing worldwide trade in counterfeit parts for commercial airlines, centred in the United States (s) (613)
8.00 The Bill: Playing Away. DC Carver is dubious of the claims of a young student who says she was mugged. Meanwhile, WPC Ackland arrests a young man for shoplifting and finds herself investigating his relationship with a woman 20 years older. (Teletext) (2416)



Date: Tony Slattery, Judy Campbell (8.30pm)

8.30 Just a Gigolo. The third of a seven-part comedy starring Tony Slattery as a loathful Lothario (Teletext) (9803)
9.00 Body and Soul. Episode three of the drama series starring Kristin Scott Thomas as a nun forced by circumstances to face the wicked world after 16 years in a convent (Teletext) (s) (6445)
10.00 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Liberal Democrats (131025)
10.05 News (Teletext) and weather (6146418) **10.35 London Tonight** (Teletext) and weather (828822)
10.45 The Frost Programme. Sir David Frost talks to the education secretary John Patten about the future of the family in Britain (s) (866261)
11.45 Raw Soup. A mix of music, comedy and discussion from the Deptford Albany Empire (s) (862445)
12.45am Street Legal. Canadian drama (6633588)
1.40 Hollywood Report (9421526)
2.05 Donahue. Phil Donahue chairs a discussion among experts on breast cancer (5076897)
3.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: South by Southeast. A tale with a twist about mistaken identity, starring Patrick Wayne (r) (21743)
3.30 America's Top Ten (r) (s) (56588)
4.00 Entertainment UK (r) (s) (30323)
5.00 Riviera. French drama serial (93472)
5.30 ITN Morning News (22323). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.15 I Love Lucy (b/w). Vintage American comedy series starring Lucille Ball (r) (38933)
6.45 Spiff and Hercules. Cat and dog animation (3311613)
7.00 The Big Breakfast presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin (12349)
9.00 You Bet Your Life. American game show hosted by Bill Cosby (s) (84377)
9.30 Lost Man's River. Peter Matthiessen explores the Florida Everglades, searching for rare flora and fauna (29377)
10.30 The Case of the Silk King. Children's science fiction drama set in the Far East (r) (5096464)
11.25 American Chronicles. David Lynch and Mark Frost's whimsical look at the Miss Texas beauty contest (r) (9448218)
11.50 Way to the Top. Puppet animation from The Netherlands (9025280)
12.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Anne Perkins (91613)
12.30 Sesame Street. Early learning series (90377)
1.30 Little Rosey. Cartoon adventures (12648)
2.00 Film: With a Song in My Heart (1952) starring Susan Hayward. A weepie biopic of 1930s singer Jane Froman following her fight back to stardom after being crippled in a second world war plane crash. With Rory Calhoun and Thelma Ritter. Directed by Walter Lang (86517993)
4.05 Film: Old Lace (1931, b/w) starring Ruth Etting as a vaudeville star having to choose between two admirers (7181919)
4.30 Fifteen To One. Fast-moving, knock out general knowledge quiz. The question-master is William G Stewart. (Teletext) (s) (754)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show The guests are Robin Williams, JJ Cool and Barry Levinson, respectively the stars and director of the film *Toys* (Teletext) (s) (7588532)
5.50 The Magic Roundabout narrated by Nigel Planer (5700071)
6.00 Desmond's Comedy series set in a Peckham, south London, barber's (r) (Teletext) (s) (919)
6.30 A Different World American comedy series (s) (241)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (388716)
7.50 Comment (826342)
8.00 Memento Dr Sheila Cassidy, who cares for the terminally ill in Plymouth, talks to Joan Bakewell about her life, which nearly ended in Chile after she was arrested and tortured for treating revolutionaries. (Teletext) (8938)
8.30 The Crystal Maze. Fantasy game show presented by Richard O'Brien (s) (10629)



Outlaws: Butch, left, Sundance, right (9.30pm)

9.30 True Stories: Wanted — Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (s) See Choice (62984)
11.00 The Jazz Package. The first of a new series of ten compilations of American music during the 1930s and 1940s. Tonight's show includes performances from Louis Armstrong, Dorothy Dandridge, Dizzy Gillespie, Albert Ammons and Pet Johnson (111174)
11.35 Dispatches. A repeat of yesterday's programme on the inadequacy of present sentencing policies (583377)
12.25am The Steve Allen Show (b/w). The guest is Henry Fonda (2023762). Ends at **12.55**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 3.20-3.50 The Young Doctors (1461532) **5.10-5.40** Billy (3743862) **6.00** Home and Away (933006) **6.25-7.00** Anglia News (624736) **10.45** Anglia Tonight (548613) **11.15** Wideangle (641754) **11.45** Prisoner: Cell Block H (492071) **12.40** Coach (4495052) **1.10** Wrestling (2649255) **1.50** Film: The Executioner of Venice (243120) **3.30** America's Top Ten (56588) **4.10** In Profile (43922304) **4.30** Riviera (22472) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (93472)

BORDER

As London except: 2.45-3.10 Graham Kerr (4679754) **3.20-3.50** GP (1461532) **6.00** Lookaround (377) **6.30-7.00** Blockbusters (629) **10.45** Dear Earth (548613) **11.15** Prisoner: Cell Block H (148613) **12.10** Nigel Mansell's IndyCar 93 (2041168) **12.40** Coach (4495052) **1.10** Wrestling (2649255) **1.50** Film: The Executioner of Venice (243120) **3.30** America's Top Ten (56588) **4.10** In Profile (43922304) **4.30** Riviera (22472) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (93472)

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.15 A Country Practice (757754) **1.45-2.15** Home and Away (758025) **3.20-3.50** Shortland Street (1461532) **5.10-5.40** Gardening Time (3743862) **6.00** Home and Away (933006) **6.25-7.00** Central News (941025) **10.45** Mirrorball...with Children (548613) **11.15** 1st Night (641754) **11.45** Sledge Hammer (640025) **12.15** The Equalizer (9813254) **1.10** Hollywood Report (3536762) **1.40** The Little Picture Show (4401985) **2.40** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (4109651) **3.10** America's Top Ten (95846658) **3.40** Raw Power (3321007) **4.35** Jobfinder (3410033) **5.20-5.30** Asian Eye (6980858)

HTV WEST

As London except: 1.45-2.15 Blockbusters (758025) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (1461532) **6.00** HTV News (377) **6.30-7.00** Green Go the Dishes (629) **10.45** This West This Week (757046) **11.30** HTV Weekend Outlook (957193) **11.45** Prisoner: Cell Block H (116754) **12.40** Coach (4495052) **1.10** Wrestling (2649255) **1.50** Film: The Executioner of Venice (502365) **3.30** America's Top Ten (56588) **4.10** In Profile (43922304) **4.30** Riviera (22472) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (93472)

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 6.00 Wales at Six **6.30-7.00** The Really Helpful Programme **7.30-8.00** Wales This Week **10.45** Storyline **11.15** Weekend Ahead **11.30** Wales and Westminster **12.00** Prisoner: Cell Block H **12.56-1.10** Rock Sport

MERIDIAN

As London except: 3.20-3.50 The Young Doctors (1461532) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (377) **6.30-7.00** Grass Roots (629) **10.45** Alfred Hitchcock Presents (548613) **11.15** Prisoner: Cell Block H (148613) **12.10** War of the Worlds (8146985) **1.05-1.40** The Twilight Zone (4491588) **5.00-5.30** Freescreen (93472)

TYNE TEES

As London except: 3.20-3.50 The Young Doctors (1461532) **6.00** Tyne Tees Today (377) **6.30-7.00** Blockbusters (629) **10.45** Alfred Hitchcock Presents (548613) **11.15** Prisoner: Cell Block H (148613) **12.10** Film: Dracula Has Risen From the Grave (2041168) **1.55** America's Top Ten (9400033) **2.25** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (2444878) **2.55** Film: The Tender Years (8309588) **4.30-5.30** Jobfinder (35878)

ULSTER

As London except: 6.00-7.00 UTV Live at Six (23754) **10.45** Counterpoint (548613) **11.15** Film: Blackout (871280) **1.10** Wrestling (2649255) **1.50** Film: The Executioner of Venice (243120) **3.30** America's Top Ten

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 1.45-2.15 Blockbusters (758025) **3.20-3.50** A Country Practice (1461532) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (23754) **10.45** Revo — The Sculptor Who Is Blind (548613) **11.15** Prisoner: Cell Block H (863174) **12.15** Disaster Chronicles (5091033) **12.40** Coach (4495052) **1.10** Wrestling (2649255) **1.50** Film: The Executioner of Venice (243120) **3.30** America's Top Ten (56588) **4.10** In Profile (43922304) **4.30** Riviera (22472) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (93472)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 3.20-3.50 The Young Doctors (1461532) **5.55** Calendar (361629) **6.30-7.00** Blockbusters (629) **10.45** Edit V (548613) **11.15** Prisoner: Cell Block H (222261) **12.10** Film: Dracula Has Risen From the Grave (801472) **1.55** America's Top Ten (9419781) **2.25** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (2444878) **2.55** Film: The Tender Years (242052) **4.30-5.30** Jobfinder (35878)

S4C

Starts: 9.00 You Bet Your Life (84377) **9.30** Lost Man's River (29377) **10.30** Case of the Silk King (5096464) **11.25** American Chronicles (9448218) **11.50** Way to the Top (9026280) **12.00** The Parliament Programme (91613) **12.30** Slot Methinn (13377) **12.30** Slot Methinn (13377) **1.00** Sesame Street (93272) **2.00** Eat Your Greens (8174) **2.30** Film: The Belles of St Trinians (25575648) **4.10** Paul Kane Goes West (5640280) **4.25** Slot 23 (3506919) **5.00** Fifteen to One (2754) **5.30** Mork and Mindy (825) **6.00** News (308396) **6.10** Heno (728990) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (2990) **7.30** O'r Fedwen I'r Earl (483) **8.00** Y Swn (8938) **8.30** News (334071) **8.35** Trosan (2951193) **9.40** Sewcar (8078890) **10.10** Film: The Fury (548276113) **12.20** Surgical Spirit (2024491) **12.50** Close

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am The DJ Kat Show (24243822) **8.40** Lamb Chops Play-a-Long (5779071) **9.10** Cartoons (5967174) **9.30** The Pyramid Game (51551) **10.00** Strike It Rich (4771687) **10.25** Dynamo Duck (4825826) **10.30** Concentration (2292261) **11.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (51087) **11.30** Falcon Crest (24551) **12.30pm** E Street (62667) **1.00** Another World (6955071) **1.45** Santa Barbara (3942809) **2.15** Sally Jessy Raphael (9663342) **3.15** Different Strokes (375174) **3.45** The DJ Kat Show (4618174) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (9321) **6.00** Games World (7193) **6.30** E Street (6445) **7.00** Rescue (1280) **7.30** Family Ties (4629) **8.00** Melrose Place (86291) **9.00** Chances (96325) **10.00** WKRP in Cincinnati (12174) **10.30** Star Trek: The Next Generation (38532) **11.30** Studs (16551) **12.00** Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (25358) **6.30** News and Business Report (859230) **8.30** Nightline (20445) **10.30** Beyond 2000 (11208) **11.30** International Business Report (22193) **12.30pm** News and Business Report (15025) **1.30** Good Morning America (16754) **2.30** Parliament Live (8649445) **3.15** Parliament Live (2268822) **4.30** News and Business Report (1342) **5.00** Live at Five (10087) **8.30** News and Business Report (48208) **7.30** *Financial Times* Reports (2071) **10.30** Nightline (38174) **11.30** ABC News (52483) **12.30am** *Financial Times* Reports (84997) **1.30** ABC News (37782) **2.30** Beyond 2000 (43472) **3.30** ABC News (55217) **4.30** *Financial Times* Reports (71694) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (60507)

SKY MOVIES PLUS

6.00am Showcase (6637754)
10.00 Tell Me No Lies (1990). Steven Weber is unable to keep his stepson (65463) **12.00 Support Your Local Gunfighter** (1971) Western comedy starring James Garner and Suzanne Pleshette (29071)
2.00pm How to Beat the High Cost of Living (1980) A group of housewives turn to crime. Starring Susan Saint James (90464)
4.00 Wonder of It All (1986) Wildlife documentary (5483)
6.00 Tell Me No Lies (as 10am) (35700)
8.00 The Delinquents (1989). Kyle Minogue and Charlie Schlatter elope (62445)
10.00 Double Edge (1992) Susan Lucci in a double role as an FBI agent and an international assassin (319990)
11.35 The Return of Elliot Ness (1991) Robert Stack plays the FBI agent (4420B7)
1.10am RSVP (1984) Erotic comedy starring Adam Mills (8840052)
2.40 Any Man's Death (1990) John Savage discovers a Nazi war criminal (423965)
4.25 Fatal Sky (1990) Journalist Michael Nouri investigates a plane crash (7174101). Ends at **5.55**

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.30pm Niagara (1952). Murder thriller starring Marilyn Monroe (74174)
8.00 The Illustrated Man (1969) Three stories inspired by tattoos (73725)
10.00 Lookin' To Get Out (1982) Gamblers Jon Voight and Burt Young flee to Las Vegas (618280). Ends at **11.45**

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am I Could Go on Singing (1963) Judy Garland travels to England (95521071)
7.45 Dot and Keeto (6370684) **9.05 Dot and the Smuggler** (9013803) Two stories mixing live action and animation
10.10 Otley (1969) Secret agent spoof starring Tom Courtenay (76229838)
12.00 The Great Impostor (1960) Tony Curtis plays a con artist (27613)
2.00pm Twentieth Century (1934, b/w) John Barrymore grooms shop girl Carole Lombard for stardom (999795)
3.35 Dot and Keeto (as 7.45am) (7286377)
4.55 Dot and the Smuggler (as 9.05am) (2971358)
6.00 Dance Academy (1986) A classical ballet academy is transformed into a school for modern dance (57822)
8.00 Ghost (1990) Patrick Swayze haunts girlfriend Demi Moore (57953975)
10.10 Dying Young (1991) Julia Roberts nurses Campbell Scott (175483)
12.05am Mortal Passions (1990) Erotic drama about a seductress (381168)
1.55 Carolina Skeletons (1991) Louis Gossett Jr attempts to clear his elder brother's name (875743)
3.35 Children of Sanchez (1979) Anthony Quinn plays a Mexican father (13058052) Ends at **5.40**

SKY SPORTS

6.30am Morning Stretch (43629) **7.00** Watersports (79754) **8.00** Red Line (70483) **9.00** Morning Stretch (81803) **9.30** Ringside (92803) **11.30** Morning Stretch (94716) **12.00** ATP Tennis: Monte Carlo Open (31557355) **6.00pm** Soccer News (270208) **6.03** WWF Wrestling (20280) **7.00** FIA Rally (28261) **8.00** British Motor Sport (44209) **9.00** US PGA Golf (47386) **11.00** The Boot Room (74087) **12.00** European League Round-Up (19746) **1.00am** Netbusters (46675) **1.30-2.00** ATP Tennis (76304)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Step Aerobics (99342) **8.00** Golf Magazine (65551) **9.00** European Snooker (70822) **10.00** Ice Hockey: Czech Republic v Norway (23377) **12.00** European Football (26484) **1.00pm** Basketball: Golden State v LA Lakers (71651) **2.30** Ice Hockey: USA v France (571754) **5.00** Ice Hockey (4919) **6.00** ATP Tennis (4261) **6.30** Eurosport News (26131) **7.00** Ice Hockey: USA v France (100700) **9.30** European Football (48342) **11.00** Show Jumping (92483) **12.00-12.30am** Eurosport News (98304)

UK GOLD

6.00am Rainbow (12401532) **6.15** Jamie and the Magic Torch (12406087) **6.30** Bucky O'Hare (6955938) **7.00** Bravestarr (3607938) **7.30** Neighbours (3686445) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (1025174) **8.30** EastEnders (1024445) **9.00** The Bill (1048025) **9.30** The Onedin Line (58056468) **10.30** Juliet Bravo (6582990) **11.30** No Place Like Home (1519174) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (1028261) **12.30pm** Neighbours (94843961) **1.00** EastEnders (3806209) **1.30** The Bill (94536B7) **2.00** 'Allo 'Allo! (71814B4) **2.30** Three Up, Two Down (94494341) **3.00** Dallas (15139990) **4.00** Dynasty (15320251) **5.00** Blankety Blank (71727161) **5.30** Give Us a Clue (41987821) **6.00** Neighbours (80659993) **6.30** The Onedin Line (34573771) **7.30** 'Allo 'Allo! (80943491) **8.00** EastEnders (70967001) **8.30** Three Up, Two Down (71807351) **9.00** Juliet Bravo (9413754) **10.00** The Bill (1029990) **10.30** Carrot's Lib (32004641) **11.30** Dr Who. The Sea Devils (6935174) **12.00-1.50am** Film: What Changed Charley Farthing? (1974) starring Doug McClure, Lionel Jeffries, Hayley Mills and Warren Mitchell (5952526)

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Jack in the Box (66919) **7.00** Rainbow Island (51735) **9.00** Jack in the Box (38342) **11.00** Stones Without Words (40919) **11.30** Say Ahhh! (41648) **12.00** Secret Valley (73396) **1.00pm** Jack in the Box (59716) **2.00** Stones Without Words (9006) **2.30** Say Ahhh! (8006) **3.00** Bobbobobs (5613) **3.30** Rainbow Island (62754) **5.00** Pugwall's Summer (8218) **5.30** Saved by the Bell (2822) **6.00** Fame (62280)

RADIO 3

6.35am Open University Maths — Formula Iteration
6.55 Weather
7.00 On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Including Turina (Danzas Fantasticas, Op 22); Beethoven (Two Romances); Debussy (Trois Chansons de Charles d'Orleans); Gliere (The Zaporozhy Cossacks)
9.00 Composer of the Week Respighi (Orgiastic Dance, Belkis, Queen of Sheba; Lauda per la nativita del signore; Concerto a cinque)
10.00 Morning Sequence: Rameau (Castor et Pollux: Orchestra of the 18th Century under Frans Bruggen); Cherubini (De tuoi figli, Medea. Maria Callas, soprano; Orchestra of La Scala, Milan, under Tullio Serafin); Szymanowski (Mythes: Sherban Lupu, violin, Peter Pettinger, piano), Clérambault (Médée. Rachel Yakar, soprano, Reinhard Goebel, violin, Wilbert Hazelzet, flute, Charles Medlam, viola da gamba, Alan Curtis, harpsichord); Saint-Saëns (Phaëton: Philharmonia under Charles Dutoit); Roussel (Joueurs de flûte: Ileana Ruhemann, flute, Catherine Edwards, piano); Gluck (O malheureuse Iphigénie, Iphigénie en Tauride: Maria Callas, soprano, Paris Conservatoire Orchestra under Georges Prêtre); Berlioz (Royal Hunt and Storm, The Trojans. Beecham Choral Society; Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Thomas Beecham)
12.00 Haydn's Late Chamber Works: Piano Trio in E flat, H XV 29 (Andras Schiff, piano, Yuuko Shiokawa, violin, Steven Isserlis, cello); Andante with Variations in F minor, H XVII 6 (Radu Lupu, piano); String Quartet in E flat, Op 76 No 6 (Takacs Quartet) (r)
1.00pm News
1.05 Saar Radio SO under Marcello Viotti performs Schubert (Overture, Die Zauberharfe); Schnittke (Concerto for piano and strings: with Lazar Berman, piano), Schumann (Symphony No 1 in B flat, Spring)
2.15 Britten Singers under Simon Wright, with George McPhee, organ, perform Stanford (Magnificat); Howells (Requiem); Michael Ball (Hymne to God, my God)
3.20 Zelenka Sonatas: Sonata No 5 in F, Sonata No 2 in G minor (Malcolm Messiter and Christopher O'Neal, oboes, Gavin McNaughton, bassoon, John Lenehan, piano, Robin McGee; double-bass)
3.55 Portraits in Brass: David Hoult talks to Howard Snell about the brass band composer Wilfred Heaton, and introduces his music. March, Praise; Trombone Concerto; Festival Arrangement, Victory for Me; Partita
5.00 In Tune, with Natalie Wheen
7.25 Jephtha, performed by the RIAS Chamber Choir and Berlin Academy of Ancient Music under Marcus Creed. With Michael George as Zebul and John Mark Ainsley as Jephtha. See Choice
10.15 Bluebird Blues: The development of the blues in the thirties and forties (r)
10.45 Night Waves: The Irish poet Paul Durcan reads from his latest collection, *A Snail in My Prime*
11.30 Phyllis Bryn-Julson, soprano, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano, perform music by Dallapiccola, Webern, Schoenberg and Berg
12.30-12.35am News

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping **6.00** News, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze, chaired by Michael Buerk
9.45 Surviving In Stroke City: Gerry Anderson reflects on the ironies of living in Northern Ireland
10.00-10.30 Crampton Hodnet (FM only), by Barbara Pym (5/6)
10.00 News; An Act of Worship (LW only)
10.15 Something Understood (LW only): A selection of poetry on the nature of God
10.30 Woman's Hour traces the history of jazz dancing; meets Finty Williams, the daughter of Dame Judi Dench and Michael Williams; and Helen Braid talks about her book, *Letters to My Semi-Detached Son*. Incl
11.00 News
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Linda Lewis
12.25pm Litmus Test: Fred Harris chairs the off-beat scientific panel game **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with James Naughtie
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping
2.00 News; The Jacobean Box, by Don Taylor. Brian Blake (Stephen Moore) arranges to collect a box containing sonnets, diaries and original manuscripts by Shakespeare from a railway station in Yorkshire. With Peter Vaughan and Michaelle Newell
3.00-4.00 Iconoclasts (FM only): Fand Kassim of Hizbut Then Ar, the Islamic Liberation Party, challenges the West's idea of freedom and democracy. Trevor Barnes chairs a debate on his views
3.00 News; Prime Ministers Questions (LW only)
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope reviews *Love Song for Ulster* at the Tricycle Theatre and *Stars in the Morning Sky* at the Newcastle Playhouse; looks at paintings by Ivon Hitchens in London and Chichester; and listens to Laurence Perkins play the bassoon
4.45 Short Story The Headmistress. Written and read by Christopher Fitz-Simon
5.00 PM 5.45 Local Government Election Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats **5.50** Shipping **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Masterson Inheritance. Improvised historical saga, starring Josie Lawrence and Paul Merton. See Choice
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 One Step Beyond: Netiquette. Jez Nelson logs on to computer networks
8.00 The Thin Blue Line: James Naughtie reports on the United Nations peacekeeping force
8.45 Does He Take Sugar? Kali Whitaker presents reports on home help: and therapies and possible cures for ME
9.15 Kaleidoscope (r)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: A Straightforward Tale, by Leonardo Sciascia (4/5)
11.00 Three for the Road: A New-Wave Format, by Bobbie Ann Mason. The second of three plays based on American short stories
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.43am News, incl **12.27** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** World Service (LW only)

CHOICE

The Masterson Inheritance. *Radio 4, 6.30pm.*
The question is: can they keep the fun going for five more episodes? Are there enough double-meanings left in the world? Enough Regency-style bodices to be ripped? Enough vile oaths to be launched? Most important, can the studio audience keep on responding to the invitation to supply the plotlines on which improvised historical sagas such as *Masterson* depend? All will be revealed (and, if this were television, rest assured all *would* be revealed) in due course. Lee Simpson's off-the-cuff narration is the pivot on which this comedy show bawdily spins.

Jephtha. *Radio 3, 7.25pm.*
Handel was traumatised by the gradual loss of his sight when he composed what was to be not only his final oratorio but his last new work. Judge for yourself tonight whether there was also any diminution in his brilliance. There is a well-respected body of opinion that rates *Jephtha* higher than *Messiah*. Thomas Morrell, librettist of five Handel oratorios including *Judas Maccabaeus* considered *Jephtha* his best work. **Peter Davalle**

FREQUENCIES: RADIO 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2:** FM-88-90.2. **RADIO 3:** FM-90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4:** 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6. **RADIO 5:** 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. **LBC:** 1152kHz/261m; FM

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Four square: Fleming, of Kent, pulls Pearson to the boundary watched by Charlesworth, left, and Arscott, of Cambridge University, at Fenner's yesterday. Report, page 46

IOC party weighs Berlin's Olympic chances

BERLIN'S chances of staging the 2000 Games have increased with a visit by an International Olympic Committee (IOC) delegation, which was marked by hostile demonstrations, the mayor, Eberhard Diepgen, claimed yesterday.

Diepgen, who has staked his political future on securing the event, said: "We have taken an important step," but admitted there was a lot of work to be done to sway the IOC.

IOC executive officials left the German city yesterday for Istanbul, the last of the six remaining cities competing for the Games not to be inspected. Sydney and Peking are the favourites; the other candidates are Brasilia and Manchester.

Gunnar Ericsson, the head of the IOC delegation, refused to say whether Berlin's chances had been damaged by demonstrations that have been held since the IOC members arrived.

On Sunday, 7,000 opponents of the Olympic bid marched through the city centre and there were some clashes with police. On Tuesday, about 40 people who tried to force their way into the hotel used by the delegation were arrested. Two fire bombs were thrown at large Berlin stores who are supporting the bid.

Many Berliners oppose staging the Games as a waste of money at a time when the city is desperately short of housing and money to finance Germany's reunification.

Ericsson said he had gained a good impression of Berlin. But he added: "We have six candidates and all are serious. Each IOC member votes independently."

Commenting on wrangling within Berlin, he said: "You have to understand the arguments when they ask what good it is to spend money on the Games when you have to fight unemployment and build nursery schools."

Walther Troger, the German National Olympic Committee chairman, said that the Berlin authorities had to work on the population to sell the benefits of staging the Games.

The vote on which city will stage the 2000 Olympics will be held on September 23 in Monte Carlo.

Leading golfers offered lessons on rules

FROM MEL WEBB
IN VIC, CATALONIA

THE PGA European Tour is to consider conducting a weekly series of rules seminars for players following the disqualification of Jamie Spence from the Rome Masters golf tournament last week.

As the field gathered for the Catalan Open, which starts here today, Spence, who was disqualified when sharing the lead after three rounds at Castelgandolfo, had a discussion with a team of tournament directors led by John Paramor, the Tour's chief referee.

"It never ceases to amaze me what situations the players put themselves in out there," Paramor, a tournament director for 17 years, said. "I truly worry sometimes about the lack of knowledge of quite simple rules.

"More often than not the players over-complicate things — the basic rules of golf are very simple, and they are not often open to misinterpretation. We will be asking the tournament committee if they would like us to arrange for these 'teach-ins' to take place."

Spence, one of the most promising players in Europe, could have taken a huge step to further his Ryder Cup ambitions had he taken the £50,000 first prize in Rome.

The infraction of the rules that cost him his place in the tournament was that he dropped his ball in the wrong place when legitimately seeking relief from a pedestrian walkway on the 15th hole. He should have taken a two-stroke penalty, but having signed for a 72 he was told four hours later by Andy Stubbs, the tournament director, that there no was alternative to disqualification.

Spence was still finding it difficult to get the affair off his mind yesterday. "It was my fault, and I don't deny it," he said. "But it's just so annoying that it took four hours for the incident to be reported. I could have taken the two-shot penalty and still won.

"It's very difficult to get into contention. It's only the second time I've managed to lead after three rounds this year, and to have this happen to you when you know are playing well is an extra frustration."

Woosnam reappears, page 46

McLeish misses Portugal match

ANDY Roxburgh's plans for the World Cup qualifying match in Portugal next week were in danger of collapsing yesterday. The Scotland manager, who today trims a 31-strong squad to a travelling party of about 20 for Lisbon, has been forced to rule out Alex McLeish, of Aberdeen, and Nicky Walker.

McLeish, who won his 77th cap against Malta in February, was injured playing against Partick Thistle on Tuesday. Walker, the Heart of Midlothian goalkeeper, made his debut against Germany last month but damaged a calf muscle before the game against Aberdeen last weekend.

To complicate matters, Roxburgh is waiting to hear fitness bulletins on several players — Tom Boyd (Celtic), Alan McLaren (Hearts), Duncan Shearer and Stewart McKimmie (both Aberdeen), and Dave Bowman and Jim McInally (both Dundee United).

"I've no idea how all of this will affect the size of my squad as there are still other factors to consider," Roxburgh said.

His additional concerns are the nine Rangers players in the original squad, who faced a European Champions League tie against CSKA Moscow last night, and the three "Anglo-Scots" — Gary McAllister, Brian McClair and Kevin Gallacher.

Platt recall helps England

BY KEITH PIKE

DAVID Platt, the England football captain, tonight will be given the opportunity to sharpen his scoring appetite before the crucial World Cup group two qualifying game against Holland at Wembley next Wednesday.

England have been so reliant on Platt's goalscoring instincts — he has scored ten of their last 16 goals — that Graham Taylor, the England manager, would not have welcomed Platt's omission from the Juventus side for their recent Italian league wins against Torino and AC Milan.

Platt has been recalled for Juventus's Uefa Cup semi-final second-leg tie against Paris Saint-Germain tonight, however, because Dino Baggio and Antonio Conte, the Juventus midfield players, and Jurgen Kohler, their German defender, are suspended. With Gascoigne evidently far from fully fit and England's attacking options still restricted by injuries and poor form, the Juventus trio's bans could not have been better timed from Taylor's perspective.

Platt's absence from the Juventus team has fuelled speculation that he may be sold to Sampdoria this summer, but yesterday he would not allow himself to be distracted by either that or England's forthcoming game.

Juventus take a 2-1 lead from the first leg to France, and Platt said: "With a game as important as this coming up, you cannot be thinking about the future or your own particular case. We have got to go out there determined not to concede a goal, but also to score at least one ourselves. We cannot just go out and try to defend our lead."

Giovanni Trapattoni, the Juventus coach, believes one goal will be enough for the Italian team. "The side is willing to overcome the Parisian obstacle. I think we will score once and that it will be decisive," Trapattoni said.

Platt will play in midfield alongside Gianluca Vialli, who is normally a striker, and the defender, Giancarlo Marocchi.

Meanwhile, Erik Thorstvedt, the Tottenham Hotspur and Norway goalkeeper, believes he will be fit to face England in Oslo on June 2 in another vital World Cup qualifying match.

Thorstvedt is recovering from a hernia operation and a fractured finger, which have ruled him out of the end of Tottenham's season, but said yesterday he had a good chance of being fit to face England. Norway lead the group on goal difference from England and Holland. They are at home to Turkey next Wednesday.



Platt: focused

Preparations for the finals in the United States next summer have been approved by João Havelange, the president of Fifa, the governing body of world football.

"I have full confidence in the ability of the people here," Havelange said. "I'm sure that the organisation will be perfect."

Havelange was visiting the RFK Stadium in Washington as part of an inspection tour of tournament facilities. He conceded that several problems remained to be solved, notably the enlargement of playing surfaces to comply with Fifa regulations, but compared the situation to that which existed in Italy before the 1990 tournament.

"All the newspapers attacked the organisers for months before the start, but everything was perfect by the kick-off. I expect no less here," he said. "The problems that exist are being dealt with by the organisers, and I am not overly concerned. There is still one year left, and I am sure that everything will be ready three months in advance."

Havelange did admit concern over the "small interest" in football displayed by the American media, but said: "I don't think that is a reason not to sell football to the United States. With 3,500,000 tickets sold already — and I'm sure the rest will go too — football is bound to have an impact."

☐ Gordon Watson and Julian Watts, the Sheffield Wednesday players, have been ruled out for the rest of the season. Watson, a striker, suffered a severe ankle ligament injury in a reserve match against Sunderland and Watts, a centre half, has broken a bone in his foot in training. Neither is a first-team regular, but both would probably have played at some stage during a spell of five league games in ten days which precede Wednesday's FA Cup final against Arsenal on May 15.

Joachim presents Little with large problem

JULIAN Joachim's emergence as one of England's most precocious young strikers has left Brian Little, the Leicester City manager, to negotiate a balancing act that would test the strongest nerves. Much depends on Little's success, for club and country as well as the player himself (Keith Pike writes).

Just as Wales and Manchester United are beginning to reap the full dividends of the nurturing of Ryan Giggs's talents, so England — and Leicester — have profited from the delicate handling of Joachim, an 18-year-old former YTS recruit of such natural talent that Little believes his potential is unlimited. The problems, though, may only just be beginning.

After watching Joachim score twice in Leicester's 4-1 victory over Southend United on Tuesday, which leaves them within two points of a first division play-off place, Little elaborated on his hopes and fears. He did not say so, but the example of Nick Barmby, the gifted young Tottenham Hotspur forward, may not have been far from his mind.

Barmby was the innocent victim of an unseemly club-versus-country dispute before helping England reach the semi-finals of the world youth championship in Australia in March. He did so despite a succession of injuries which restricted his effectiveness and participation and, in turn, allowed Joachim to use the same stage to announce his own arrival.

"Everything is happening thick and fast for Julian, and because of that I have to have the courage and the strength to act in his best interests," Little said. He has started Joachim in only 25 of Leicester's 38 games since he made his debut on October 3, and replaced him on 11 of those occasions, but admits there has been at least one other occasion when he probably should have omitted him. "Everybody at Leicester wants him out there," Little said, "but you cannot let that influence you if you genuinely believe he needs a rest.

"For every player who goes the whole way, there are one or two who do not. I will do what is best for him, and he knows that. At the moment we need to remind him that the club's ambitions are as big as his own.

"He has got a lot to learn, but a lot of things could come his way. I hope we can help him along the path to whatever career unfolds for him. He has got the ability, but who knows? It could go the other way." That, Little recognises, could be as much England's loss as Leicester's.

☐ Oxford United and Bristol City both eased their first division relegation fears on Tuesday night. Jim Magilton, from the penalty spot, and Andrew Melville were Oxford's marksmen in a 2-1 home win over Peterborough while Bristol City earned a point from a 0-0 draw with Derby County at Ashton Gate.

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ACROSS
7 Fence post (4)
8 British Legion founder (4,4)
9 Select (6)
10 Winged dragon (6)
11 Droop (4)
12 Intrinsic (8)
15 Guardian (8)
17 Provocative (4)
18 Stubby (6)
21 Brisk (6)
22 Clock swing (8)
23 Italian capital (4)

DOWN
1 Norse great hall (8)
2 Have proper place (6)
3 Long lamentation (8)
4 Pull (4)
5 Razor (6)
6 Load-bearing pillar (4)
13 Athletes bar (4,4)
14 Following occasion (4,4)
16 Amusing play (6)
17 Chess board area (6)
19 At that moment (4)
20 Shout (4)

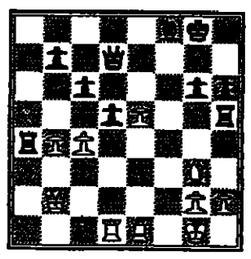
SOLUTIONS TO NO 3077
ACROSS: 1 Lemur 4 Snifter 8 Costa Rica 9 Ass 10 Dee 11 Recipient 12 Resin 13 On cue 16 Dissenter 18 Bob 20 Lab 21 Emphasise 22 Scented 23 Eight
DOWN: 1 Laced 2 Masters 3 Rearrangement 4 Stitch 5 Inappropriate 6 Trace 7 Rosette 12 Riddles 14 Cabling 15 Stupid 17 Sable 19 Bleat

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WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Ermolinsky — Men, US Championship 1992. Here white forced resignation with a quiet-looking move that demonstrates what an immensely powerful piece the queen can be. What did he play?



Solution on page 43

WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

COMACINE
a. A very boring film
b. An Italian mason
c. A narcotic drug

SONDAGE
a. Before the Stone Age
b. A deep trench
c. A mild perversion

PLURIARC
a. A musical instrument
b. A rainbow
c. A bow with two strings

KORO
a. An incense burner
b. A Martial Art
c. A delusion of impotence

Answers on page 43

In a class of their own

Harvey Elliott examines the effects of price cutting and recession on the rapidly changing world of business travel

In less than a month the shape of business air travel within Europe has been transformed and fares are falling. For years it appeared that businessmen would for ever have to pay high prices and effectively subsidise economy class passengers.

Until last month, all the special offers and the cut-price tickets had been made available only to the leisure traveller. The business person, who needs to have complete flexibility and instant access to flights, had no such opportunity.

Among the lowest business fares on offer were those from British Midland which operated a single-class cabin. Its business passengers enjoyed flexibility of travel but sat intermingled with economy fare travellers.

Then last month British Midland (BMA) introduced a two-class cabin on its European flights and, more important, did not increase its fares. This enabled BMA to claim that it was undercutting rivals offering similar services by 40 per cent.

At first, critics said it would not work, that all the airline had done was to split its cabin in two and not touch prices. Yet, within days, almost every airline in Europe was following suit and offering a range of business class fares, some substantially below the single-priced high-cost ticket sold previously.

British Midland would not, said some sceptics, be able to increase its overall yield by making the change because it had not changed its overall fare structure. Yet after four weeks it is now apparent that it has made significant gains.

Before the introduction of its Diamond Euro-class — as the new service has been called — BMA sold about 20 per cent of the seats in the one-class cabin it then operated at the premium business rates. This has shot up to 27 per cent, not because prices are any lower than they were, but because businessmen clearly prefer to travel in a cabin of their own and they now have a choice of business class fares which depend on the length of time they wish to remain away. The most popular innovation has been the introduction of a lower priced three-day fare.

"Business travellers like to feel they have status," says Sir Michael Bishop, chairman of British Midland. "With a single class of service they were spread throughout a single cabin which, although of a uniformly high standard, meant that they could be sitting next to someone who had paid much less than they had."

Sir Michael is not the most popular man among Europe's airlines for his fresh initiative. They had come to rely on high, one-priced, take-it-or-leave-it business fares as the only way to ensure that their average yield remained above the cost of flying the aircrafts.

Once the recession took a firm hold, however, the ground rules changed. Suddenly companies whose staff flew on business began looking at the costs involved and ordered employees either not to travel at all or to book economy tickets. This cut the number of full-fare paying business travellers and greatly reduced the airlines' yield — the average income per aircraft — even though many reported an actual increase in the total number of passengers. Now the new attempt to court business travellers through cut-price fares rather than the free gifts, courtesy cars and luxury lounges — which had become the main way of competing — is hurting airlines, particularly those with high costs.

Throughout Europe, big international carriers are losing money and even British Airways, one of a handful of carriers still showing a profit, admits that it is struggling to make money on its short haul European and domestic services.

One of the main reasons for the decline in airline income from the business traveller is the growth and increasing sophistication of business travel agencies and specialist business travel organisations.

Companies such as American Express, Thomas Cook and Wagons-Lits are gradually working through British industry and commerce offering to take on responsibility for organising their travel. By using their buying power they are able to force down rates for air tickets, hotel rooms, car hire and even restaurants. At the same time, the 39 members of the Guild of Business Travel Agents, who between them have 1,670 high street outlets, are also using all their persuasive powers and desk-top equipment to obtain the best possible prices for their clients.

The International Air Transport Association (Iata) recently carried out a survey which showed that 30 per cent of European businesses had cut their budgets in the past six months and that a quarter expected to make further cuts next year.

Bigger companies, says Iata, are more likely than small ones to make cuts. Only 8 per cent of travellers in the smallest companies — with fewer than 25 employees — reported reductions last year, compared with nearly 40 per cent of those working in bigger companies — with more than 1,000 staff.

Most worrying for the airlines was the fact that last year companies reduced their travel budgets by seeking cheaper ticket deals while this year many more companies have decided to cut their costs by not flying at all. Nearly half of the 800 companies polled thought that developments in telecommunications would allow them to replace part of their travel.

For the moment, however, it is clear that business travel remains big business. It is estimated that British companies spend at least £5 million a day on travel.

There is, for the moment, however, little evidence that the spending will increase. Colin Rainbow, commercial director of Wagons-Lits Travel, which has more than 75 business travel units operating in Britain, says: "While we thought there were a few green shoots earlier this year, we are revising our initial predictions."

He believes that the trend for lower business class fares within Europe will accelerate and that more and more businessmen will seek day trips to European cities to avoid overnight costs.

Only car hire firms are likely to increase their prices. They can no longer make their usual profit on selling used cars because of the decline in re-sale values and have to rely instead on the price of rental cars going up.

It is in the airline market where the real bargains are to be found now including, at last, in business class. With frequent-flyer programmes, incentives, better and quicker check-in and even health facilities before and after travel, the airlines are trying their hardest to ensure that businessmen start using their services again.

Judging by the latest figures which show that the number of people passing through Britain's major airports is rising sharply — 8.3 per cent up at Heathrow last month compared with March last year — the recession would appear to be coming to an end.

Whether that trend will be continued this month is, according to many within the airline industry, doubtful. Even more doubtful is whether those additional passengers will have paid premium business class fares or whether they will have been back-of-the-aircraft leisure travellers snapping up the bargains still available.



Fare war: Sir Michael Bishop's competitive streak is not making him popular with rival airlines which are being stung into action



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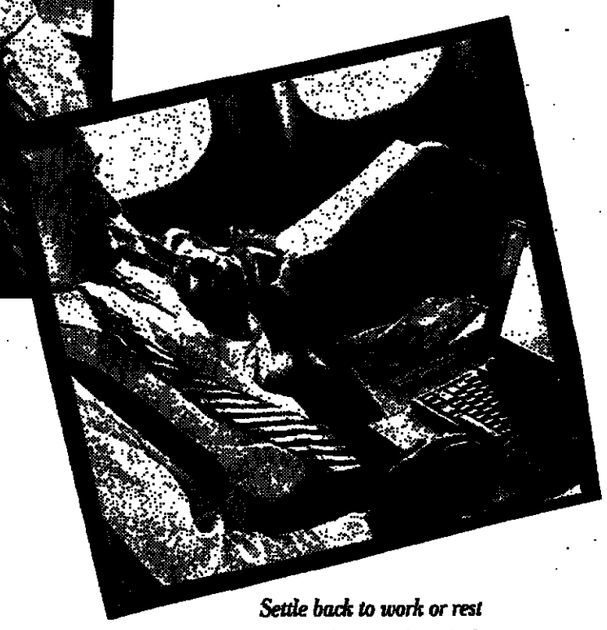
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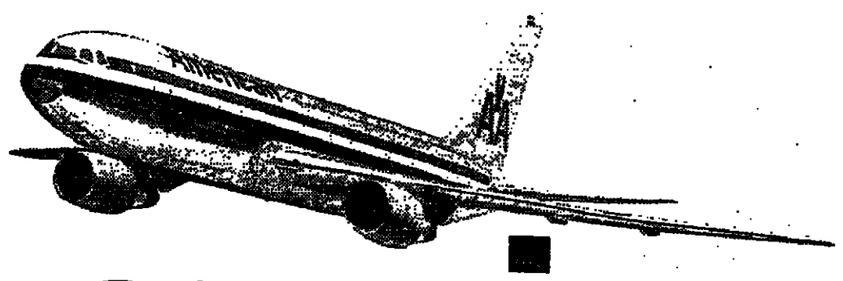
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A green and clean computerised dream

Piloting an aircraft has become easier thanks to a new generation of electronic devices. **Arthur Reed** reports

Aerospace manufacturers are under mounting pressure by the aviation authorities who monitor technical standards to produce a new generation of airliners far safer than their predecessors. At the same time, the planemakers are expected to make their products "greener", to have far less noise and atmospheric pollution impact on the environment.

They are being helped to meet these targets by the galloping pace of computerisation as applied to the flying and navigation of the latest aircraft, and by the remarkably high standards of reliability now being achieved by jet engine companies, notably Rolls-Royce in Britain, and Pratt and Whitney and General Electric in the US.

The outcome for the business community is smoother, punctual journeys, although there is nothing an airline flying even the very latest equipment can do about air traffic delays and overcrowded airport runways.

Inside the aircraft, the aerospace companies now offer the airlines a wealth of high technology, from seats owing their shape to the science of ergonomics, affording plenty of width and knee room, to in-flight telephones; from multi-channel videos to work stations and word processors and faxes. But business people do not always get what they pay for in the matter of such goodies, and the airline-wise executive should shop around before committing the company's travel budget.

On the principal that there would have been few sales had they set out simply to "make another Boeing", the Airbus Industrie consortium (France, Germany, Britain, Spain) has engineered as a matter of policy a high level of high-tech into its family of airliners. Its in-service A320 150-seater, its four-engine, 375-seat A340, which has just started with the Germain airline Lufthansa, and its 440-seat A330 and 180-seat A322, both of which are going through their development programmes, are all computer-controlled and "fly-by-wire".

Under this system, computers are the heart of the aircraft. Pilots fly the aeroplanes using small hand grips the size of a motorcar gear lever rather than the traditional control column. Moving the grip sends signals to the computers, which in turn relay them down electronic wiring rather than the old system of mechanical rods, wires and pulleys, to the moving surfaces on wings and tail.

Should the aircrew initiate a dangerous manoeuvre — pulling the nose up towards a stall, for instance — the computers refuse to accept the command, and will return the aircraft to a safe attitude.

All the latest airliners off the world's assembly lines now have "fly-by-wire" and computerisation installed, and all are fitted with "glass cockpits" — that is, computer-generated information on height, speed, aircraft attitude, track, engine performance, and so on, displayed in full colour on visual display units (television screens) rather than through the old electro-mechanical dials.

With vastly improved communications between aircraft and ground and aircraft and orbiting satellites, navigation has become a precise science and will become even more so in the near future. Automatic, or "blind" landing, pioneered in Britain in the 1950s and 1960s, is now routine and helps the airlines, and its business passengers, keep to schedule in even the worst winter weather.

Given that the aerospace industry has been going through bad times recently, with recession-hit airlines cancelling or postponing orders, and with defence business winding down post-*détente*, it continues to spend inordinately large sums on research and development. The business community is becoming spoiled in its choice of the latest airliners. In addition to the Airbus family mentioned earlier, McDonnell Douglas recently put its wide-bodied, 400-seat MD-11 into service and is working on plans for an even bigger MD-12.

Boeing continues to dominate world markets with its family of transports, from its 130-seat 737-500, through the progressively larger 757 and 767 to its mighty 747-400 jumbo, which effortlessly transports 400 people at a time from one side of the world to the other. Under development is the Boeing 777, a wide-bodied, twin-engine airliner that will carry up to 400 passengers when it enters service, and which is already engaged in a bitter marketing battle with its competitor from the Eurobus stable, the A330.

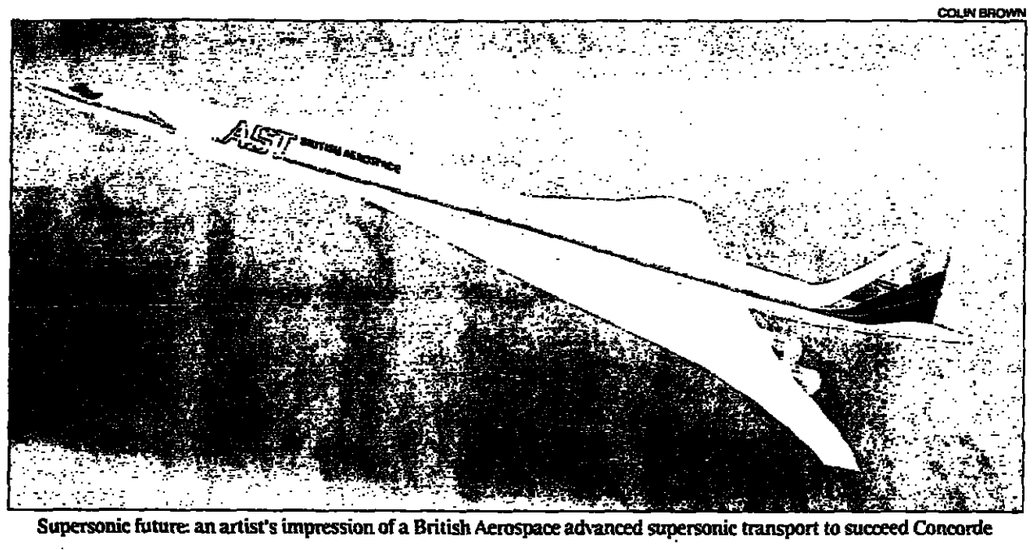
Business people who have travelled with the airlines of the CIS, the old Soviet Union, all have wry, sometimes hair-raising, tales to tell of hit-or-miss timekeeping, noisy aircraft, unreliable engines. All that could change, however, as the CIS looks to aerospace manufacturers in the West for technical aid. At the Paris air show this June, for instance, Tupolev will demonstrate its new Tu-204 200-seat airliner equipped with Rolls-Royce RB211-535 engines, while Ilyushin will display its IL-96M wide-body 300-seater fitted with US Pratt and Whitney PW2337 engines and US Rockwell Collins electronics.

These airliners, and other westernised CIS-designed types that will follow, are already causing interest among airlines in the West, because they will be cheaper to buy than Western-made types, with no concession to operating safety and efficiency.

At the regional/commuter airliner level, business travel conditions are improving from the days when services were flown by basic propeller-driven airliner types, or elderly jets handed down after years of mainline operations. A new generation of aircraft, technically-advanced, environmentally acceptable, and specifically tailored for this sector fo the market is either in service, or about to arrive. They include the French-Italian ATR 42/72, British Aerospace ATP and Jetstream 31/41, Saab 340/2000, de Havilland of Canada Dash 8 prop-jets, and the Fokker 100, BAe 146, and Canadair RJ jets.

And for the future? The peripatetic businessman and businesswoman of the early years of the next century could be flying to their appointments in an 800-seat subsonic jet, or a 350-seat supersonic successor to today's Concorde named, tentatively at present, the Alliance. Both types are currently under intensive evaluation by consortia of aerospace manufacturers, embracing Europe, the US, the CIS and Japan. Technically, there is no reason why either aircraft should not be developed.

COLIN BROWN



Supersonic future: an artist's impression of a British Aerospace advanced supersonic transport to succeed Concorde



Going Boeing: the 777 400-seater due to fly in 1995

Cars ready for take-off

Customers want fast and cheap car-hire facilities at airports

Business travellers are a pretty demanding lot when it comes to hiring a car at the airport. They want speed but they also want personal attention and competitive rates.

Avis, famous for its We Try Harder slogan as the world number two, is a market leader in Europe. Its research shows that nearly nine out of every ten business travellers rate quick and efficient reservation to be important or essential and a similar number insist on avoiding queuing when they collect the car. Even without a prior reservation, 63 per cent of customers still expect speedy service and eight out of ten look for competitive rates.

> 'Travellers can go straight to the hire car and drive away'

Much lower ratings were given in the survey to the convenience of having a single booking that covers car and flight or to rewards such as free Air Miles.

Surprisingly, given the urge for speed, nearly half the respondents were not bothered if the cars were parked some distance from the rental booth. Airport locations are the key to winning market share among business travellers and hire companies have been searching for the right bait to lure customers.

The research encouraged Avis to set up the Avis Club which offers special services. Membership is free. A Preferred Service facility is available at main UK airports and provides a paperless transaction. Business travellers can arrive at the car rental location, see their name and car bay number on a screen, go straight to the car which contains the keys and the rental agreement and drive away.

A spokeswoman says: "There is no queue, no paper, no delay and no extra charge. Customers simply sign an annual master rental agreement which negates the need for any further paperwork.

"That does not mean that customers sacrifice personal service. Although renters can pick up their car without having to speak to anyone, there are always Avis personnel on hand should customers have any queries or require personal assistance."

An alternative, Avis Express, is available at five UK airports. Customers sign the rental agreement which is waiting at a priority booth.

Providing an efficient airport service does not come cheap. Avis has spent £3.6 million on developing services for business customers and has formed alliances with airlines such as British Midland and Virgin and with the Automobile Association. Goodies on offer include free airport parking, reduced insurance rates and free flights for regular car hirers.

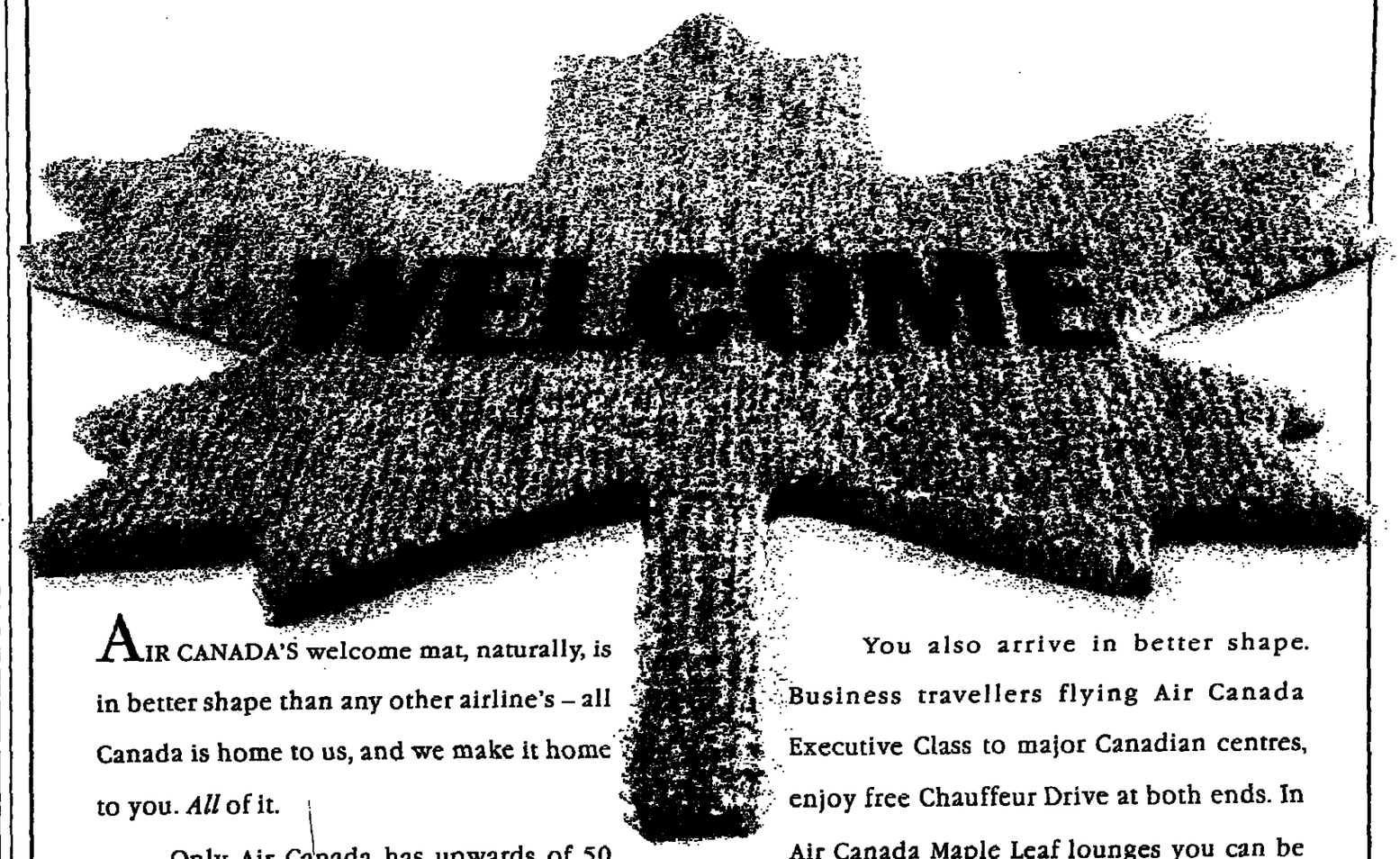
Hertz, the world number one car hire company, with 5,000 locations in 130 countries, has spent £3 million at Heathrow alone on its flagship location opened last September. A further £4 million is being spent at Schiphol in The Netherlands and Frankfurt in Germany.

It has just completed a programme of upgrading and standardising all its European airport rental data systems and locations to make them more efficient and to give then the same Hertz atmosphere that makes regular customers feel at home in a foreign country.

RODNEY HOBSON

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You also arrive in better shape.

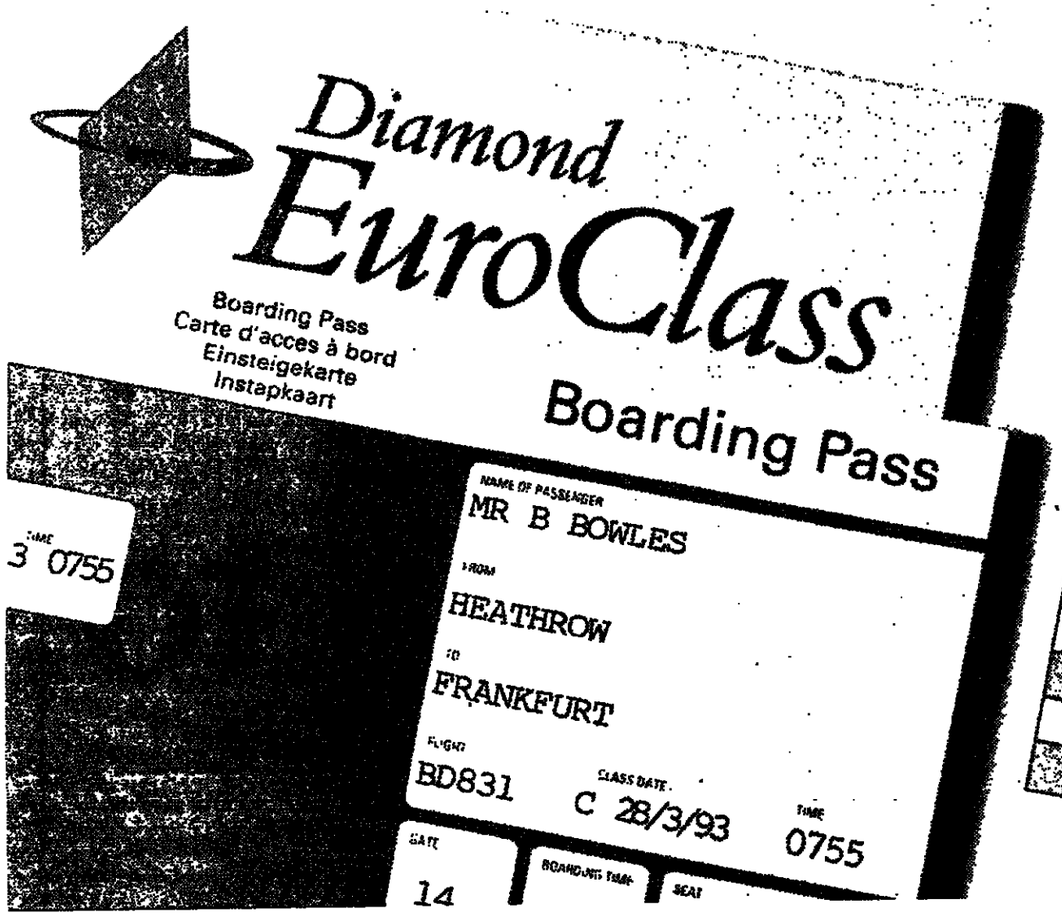
Business travellers flying Air Canada Executive Class to major Canadian centres, enjoy free Chauffeur Drive at both ends. In Air Canada Maple Leaf lounges you can be as laid back as you like, with faxes and phones in easy reach.

Air Canada's the only airline big enough to make you feel at home *anywhere* in Canada.

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...ight from Heathrow departs at 07...
...arriving in Frankfurt at 1030.

- The last return flight from Frankfurt departs ... 1920 arriving in Heathrow at 2000.

HEATHROW (Terminal 1) - FRANKFURT				
Flight	Frequency	Depart	Arrive	Service
BD831	Daily	0755	1030	Breakfast
BD833	Daily ex Sat, Sun	1155	1430	Lunch
BD835	Sat, Sun	1310	1545	Lunch
BD837	Daily	1555	1830	Afternoon Tea
BD839	Daily ex Sat	1755	2030	Dinner

FRANKFURT - HEATHROW (Terminal 1)				
Flight	Frequency	Depart	Arrive	Service
BD830	Daily ex Sun	0710	0750	Breakfast
BD832	Daily	1150	1230	Lunch
BD836	Daily	1630	1710	Afternoon Tea
BD838	Daily	1920	2000	Dinner

Oh yes you can.

British Midland's new, 4-flights-every-weekday service between Heathrow and Frankfurt could hardly have been launched on a more appropriate date.

On March 28th, British Midland also introduced Diamond EuroClass, a genuine watershed in European business travel.

For the first time, Business Class passengers have a choice of fares for a choice of travel needs–a fully-flexible Executive Return, our innovative 3 Day Executive Return, and Eurobudget for trips with a flexible return time.

All three give Business Class passengers top class service in a separate cabin.

All three entitle you to advanced seat assignment, priority check-in and priority disembarkation.

And all three can save you serious amounts of money. Even the most expensive Diamond EuroClass fare will be no more than other airlines' normal Economy fares.

For example, you can save over £138 on a return trip to Paris, more than £100 to Brussels, over £120 to Frankfurt.

For years, Business Class travellers have demanded sensible prices and a choice of fares.

British Midland is proud to be the first major European airline to meet that demand.

Diamond EuroClass

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TO
FRANKFURT

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EXECUTIVE RETURN
SAVE £34

EUROCLASS
3 DAY EXECUTIVE RETURN
SAVE £98

EUROCLASS
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SAVE £125

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Transatlantic airline strikes back

Continental Airlines is taking the fight to the big Atlantic operators, says **David Churchill**

Continental Airlines, once viewed as yet another "terminal casualty" in the beleaguered American airline industry, is now not only emerging from its protective Chapter 11 adminstrative bankruptcy but also mounting a Virgin-style challenge on the lucrative transatlantic air routes.

Continental has abandoned its old-style first-class service to upgrade its business-class in terms of service level and seat size. Its new seat pitch — the distance between the front edge of a seat and the front edge of the seat directly in front when in an upright position — of 55in in business class is comparable with that of Virgin Atlantic's Upper Class (although Continental's seat is slightly narrower).

Virgin has separate in-flight lounge areas and extra services such as neck massage available, so although Continental clearly still lacks much of Richard Branson's style and razzmatazz, it knows that attracting high-yield business class passengers is a must for transatlantic airlines.

Business-class passengers, despite the best efforts of travel agents, still tend to pay almost full fare for a seat. It has been estimated that a full load of business passengers on a British Airways jumbo to New York would make the flight profitable, even if both first-class and economy class were empty.

For some airlines, they might as well be empty. Agents estimate that only about one in every ten first-class passengers is on a full-fare paying ticket. Most travelling in the premium cabin are there on upgrades, either because of their status or because they are members of a frequent-flying club, while those in economy seating are usually there on heavily discounted tickets. Hence, although transatlantic flights can look full, the revenue yield may be down.

Continental, however, remains a bit player in the North Atlantic air war. Even Virgin, despite the "dirty tricks" row with BA, is still only a minor player, although its award-winning Upper Class service has helped to cream off some of the more lucrative business-class traffic.



Key player: United, with its access to Heathrow airport, is one of the big competitors on the British-American routes

The key players — apart from BA, are American, United and Delta. American and United, which took over TWA and Pan-Am's JFK-Heathrow routes, are in the stronger position because of their access to Heathrow.

Earlier this week, the case for greater access for American airlines to Heathrow and other British airports was put to John MacGregor, the transport secretary, by his counterpart in the Clinton Administration, Federico Pena. Mr Pena wants a radical revision of the 15-year-old Bermuda II agreement which governs air services between Britain and the US.

The American airlines believe that the US government's agreement to BA's recent $300 million investment in USAir should lead to a reciprocal agreement to give them more rights into Britain. Further talks are planned and the war of words is likely to hot up.

Apart from Delta's application to run a JFK-Heathrow service, United wants to acquire USAir's Philadelphia-Heathrow route and operate it from Chicago. Northwest Airlines wants to buy the Baltimore-Gatwick route from USAir and convert it to a Detroit-London service.

Wooing the business traveller is vital for all these airlines — hence the constantly changing strategies to upgrade and change business-class facilities. Where once individual video players were the prerogative of first class, they are now almost standard in transatlantic business classes. Some airlines, such as Virgin, Continental and Northwest, offer "free" limousine transfers at each end, although BA, American and United can provide helicopter transfers from downtown Manhattan to JFK airport instead.

Where next? The advances in in-flight technology and service clearly have their limits and there are doubts about whether the much-vaunted trend towards establishing on-board work-stations, with telephones, facsimile machines and personal computers, will be the way forward, as was thought only a few years ago. Instead, it may be that BA's present campaign to emphasise that its business class should be viewed as a relaxing means of travel, rather than as an extension of the office, will be the way forward in the supposedly more relaxed 1990s.

BA's competitors are adopting a "wait and see" approach before deciding whether or not to try to lure travelling executives by lulling them to sleep rather than appealing to their corporate work ethic.

Battle for the skies

Swissair's new and startling advertising campaign — a slim, naked man flying through the air — is the latest sign of changing priorities for the business traveller. Swissair has abandoned its first class cabins in favour of an improved business class service, seeking to woo business travellers with more in-flight pampering at a price they can afford.

Swissair's approach to the new environment of European air travel caused by the advent of the single market has been mirrored by British Midland, but while Swissair has moved the focus from first to business class, British Midland has moved from economy to business, with its new Euro-class cabin.

Sir Michael Bishop, the chairman of British Midland (BMA), has said that "only real competition will bring down air fares across Europe" — and he has been proved right. When BMA introduced its Euro-class service on its London to Paris route with fares below those of rivals, British Airways and Air France reduced their three-day business class fares by £78 to £240 — to match BMA's.

Better food and more attentive staff are not, however, necessarily the key to winning European market share. Most executives, according to airline surveys, rate the choice and scheduling of flights and punctuality as the key elements determining which shorthaul airline they fly in Europe.

Europe's airlines can charge significantly higher fares for business class tickets than for economy because of the lack of restrictions on when the tickets can be used.

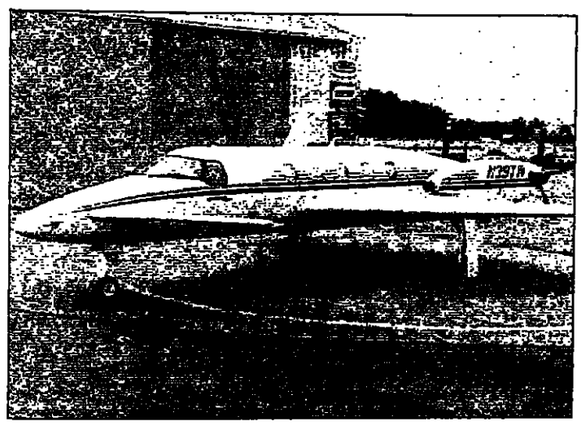
In theory, fares should have fallen from the beginning of this year as a result of deregulation which means that any EC airline can fly any intra-European routes at largely unregulated prices. In practice, however, the only significant price reductions on the main routes have been on those served by British Midland.

But continental airlines can be competitive when they need to: the Belgian airline Sabena has responded to BMA's challenges on the Heathrow-Brussels route with its Skypass which at £549 offers unlimited travel between London, Brussels and Antwerp for a month.

DAVID CHURCHILL

Tough air rules carry a price tag

CAA standards should match those in the rest of Europe, operators believe


Taxi: a Beechcraft Starship 2000A, believed to be the first to be based in the UK, which has been delivered by Air Hanson to Tom Walkinshaw, the engineering director of the Benetton grand-prix racing team. The turboprop aircraft has a composite fuselage and is said to burn a third less fuel than a light jet.

British is best when it comes to air-safety standards. Measures imposed by the Civil Aviation Authority are generally regarded as the toughest in the world. But the imbalance in requirements, particularly across the European Community, has long brought calls from the smaller airline operators for a level landing strip.

Danny Forman, chief executive of the General Aviation Manufacturers and Traders Association (Gamta) says: "The safety requirements are incredibly stringent. The public may applaud but it does mean higher fares for British airline operators while foreign-based operators flying into this country do not have to meet the same stipulations.

Gamta represents the owners of more than 7,000 aircraft, 90 per cent of all civil aircraft registered in the UK. The users of general aviation aircraft fly more than 64 million business miles a year.

Mr Forman says: "Flying has become an essential part of our everyday life. Many of us get airborne to keep business appointments, take holidays, make service visits, export high-value goods, import fresh foods and attend meetings throughout the world."

Life has been tough during the recession for smaller aircraft operators, so the time and cost involved in complying with any extra rules can be an imposition.

An example of the cost of CAA requirements is the special bird-proof windscreen and structure requirements for executive jets, at up to £30,000 per aircraft, although bird strikes are no more catastrophic in the UK than in adjacent European countries.

Gamta says that in some cases aircraft modified to CAA standards have had to be demodified before they could be sold abroad. "The CAA can be over the top. Most of the aircraft our members use are made in America but the CAA will not recognise certification by the American aviation authority, the FAA. Yet France accepts FAA certification." Gamta has been campaigning for 18 years for the CAA to come more into line with its European counterparts. A big step forward is agreement that all new aircraft are to be cleared by the Joint Aviation Authority (JAA), based in Amsterdam and representing 19 European countries. However, the JAA will not pass secondhand aircraft and Mr Forman says that any aircraft modified from its original specifications, such as stretched versions, will still come under the tougher CAA rules.

General aviation is a money-spinner for Britain, he says. "The argument is beginning to get through that differences in regulations must change."

RODNEY HOBSON

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BusinessFirst from Continental.
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Airports woo the business passengers

As Heathrow sets the pace for executive travellers, other London airports fight back, reports **David Churchill**

Business travellers using London Heathrow, the world's busiest international airport, have never had it so good: not only do they get the best choice of connections from airlines clamouring to take up every available take-off and landing slot, but they are also being wooed with a series of new and upgraded business lounges in which to while away their time before flights.

With all the attention being lavished on Heathrow, it is understandable that London's other airports — Gatwick, Stansted, Luton and the London City airport in the heart of Docklands — must be feeling a little left out. American Airlines has pulled out of Stansted and Delta, based at Gatwick, has applied to launch a daily Heathrow-New York (JFK) service. At present only United Airlines and American Airlines of the "big three" American carriers can use Heathrow.

The attraction of Heathrow to the airlines is based on the simple premise that it is where international business travellers want to fly to and from: last year some 19.5 million passengers travelled through Heathrow on business.

Of those businessmen and businesswomen departing from the airport, Paris (Charles de Gaulle airport) was the most frequent destination (760,000 passengers), followed by New York's JFK airport (405,000), Brussels (385,000), Amsterdam's Schipol (375,000) and Belfast (350,000).

What makes Heathrow popular with British business travellers — who make up some 20.8 per cent of the total number of passengers using the airport — is the frequency and wide choice of flights to various cities in Europe, the United States and the Far East.

For incoming business travellers (who accounted for 23.8 per cent of all incoming passengers last year) and especially those from North America, Heathrow's connections still give it the edge against other major cities as the gateway to the Continent.

Not surprisingly, BAA — which owns and runs Heathrow along with Gatwick and Stansted — has been keen to nourish its jewel. Last year, for example, it introduced three new business car parks at Heathrow, aimed at providing a faster and more efficient service for executive travellers.

In spite of some reports of early teething problems, the service has met the needs of many business travellers for whom time is important by being sited closer to the airport's terminals. Frequent executive-style minibuses provide a swift transfer to the terminals with a guarantee that the coaches will take no longer than 15 minutes to reach the terminals from the car parks.

BAA has also invested in a new business centre facility as part of a £6 million refurbishment of the Queen's Building located between Terminals one and two. This new 10,000-sq ft centre, run by Thomas Cook and opening shortly, will be three times the size of the present facility. The new centre incorporates a range of meeting rooms, a 70-seat theatre, and work stations equipped with personal computers.



Stansted Airport: boosted by new scheduled flights including twice-weekly services to St Petersburg and Helsinki

Business travellers with the major airlines are also benefiting from a spate of new lounges being opened at Heathrow. Leading the way is British Airways, which has totally remodelled its facilities at terminal four along the lines of a luxury hotel and in keeping with its new strategy of helping the business traveller to relax.

BA's Lounge Pavilion has separate passenger facilities for Concorde, first-class, Club World (and Europe) and Executive Club members. Among the new services on offer are showers for those wanting to freshen up.

The vogue for redesigning airport business lounges away from the functional designs of the past has been taken up by American Airlines and Virgin. American's new lounge, which opens early next month, is intended to look like the inside of an Edwardian country house hotel, while Virgin's newly-opened facility, the Clubhouse, has Victorian-style timber-panelled washrooms and leather armchairs in the library. It also has a typical Virgin gimmick: a large-scale model railway which delivers drinks at the bar.

United Airline's new lounge, which opened earlier this month, eschews such gimmicks, but offers a relaxed environment for business travellers with more space than either the American or Virgin lounges.

Refurbished lounges, moreover, are not just being brought in by the leading carriers: Aer Lingus, for example, has just opened a new facility at Heathrow for members of its Gold Circle Club.

Heathrow's London rivals are not taking all the attention it is getting lying down. Gatwick, for instance, has introduced a scheme called Fast Track aimed at business travellers, providing a priority service at check-in, security passport control and through duty-free. British Airways, which became a major player at Gatwick when it acquired British Caledonian in the late 1980s and strengthened its position last year by buying the beleaguered Dan-Air, has recently sought to promote Gatwick as a viable alternative for business travellers because of the route connections and less hassle. The advertising campaign carries the tag-line: "The Hub without the Hubbub".

London Stansted has shrugged off American Airlines' decision to abandon the airport as one of its London hubs with figures showing that the number of passengers using the airport has doubled to more than 2.3 million a year since the opening of its new terminal two years ago.

Stansted has also been boosted by several new scheduled services, including a twice-weekly Aeroflot service to St Petersburg and the launch of Finnair's twice-weekly service to Helsinki.

London's other airports are not too disturbed by Heathrow's continuing popularity. Luton, which gets just under two million passengers a year, is pressing ahead with plans for a new terminal combining road and rail connections. London City Airport, with just 200,000 passengers last year, is still enjoying the support of Air France and Sabena, in spite of the blow received when Brymon European Airways withdrew.

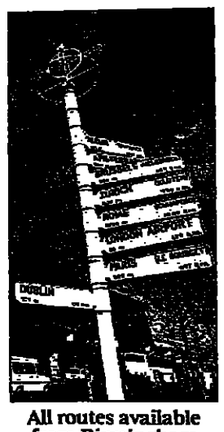
Regional airports go global

Airline travellers can now make international connections locally

Executives throughout Britain need no longer put up with the inconvenience and wasted time of travelling to London's airports in order to make international connections. Having been the Cinderella of the airline world for so long, regional airports are now in favour, easing pressure on Heathrow and providing business travellers with more options, *David Churchill writes.*

British Airways has just started a new daily service from Birmingham International Airport to New York (JFK) as well as operating five flights a week from Manchester to Los Angeles.

US airlines, more accustomed to operating from regional airports, are even more enthusiastic than BA about the potential for British regional airports. BA believes that a cautious approach is needed to ensure that sufficient demand is available to justify long-haul routes from these airports.



All routes available from Birmingham

But the American carriers' expansion plans are blocked by the bi-lateral agreements between Britain and the US. United, American and TWA would all like to operate from Birmingham — to Chicago in United and American's case, and to New York for TWA. United has also lodged an application to fly the Birmingham-Washington route.

American carriers have had more success in obtaining the rights to fly to other regional airports. Northwest Airlines was given approval in 1990 to fly from Glasgow to Boston and the following year Manchester gained American Airlines' flights to New York and Delta flights to Atlanta. United is due to start a Glasgow to Washington service in June.

Manchester Airport, which recently opened terminals costing £265 million, is the third busiest airport in the UK and the eighteenth busiest international airport in the world.

While US airlines have had difficulties in gaining access to Manchester because of the bi-lateral arrangements, other international carriers have had less of a problem. Qantas has been operating from Manchester for ten years and now operates a daily service from Manchester to Sydney. Cathay Pacific stepped up its Manchester-Hong Kong flights to three a week last June but plans to increase this to five a week from June. Turkish Airlines this month also started a twice-weekly service to Istanbul.

Other international airlines using Manchester include South African Airways, Emirates, Gulf Air, Air Canada, and Pakistan International.

The primary goal of Britain's regional airports, however, is to provide entry points to the Continent and domestic links.

Newcastle airport, for example, has become a departure point for Paris and Amsterdam. Air UK recently doubled its capacity to both destinations by introducing larger jets and more services.

Brymon European Airways, jointly owned by Danish airline Maersk Air, British Airways and some private investors, is developing Bristol as a major hub for continental growth. It has launched a service six times a week to Frankfurt from Bristol and increased capacity to Paris. Further expansion is aimed at Brussels, Geneva and Zurich.

East Midlands International Airport, the base for British Midland, plans an increase this summer from its present four flights daily to Paris, with further flights scheduled for Glasgow and Edinburgh. To attract business and to help smaller airlines, East Midlands has just cut its landing fees by 1 per cent.

East Midlands, like other regional airports, is developing lounges and other facilities to meet the needs of business travellers: its airside Sherwood Lounge has a number of pay-as-you-go business services, including faxing and photocopying.

Glasgow, which has just spent some £60 million upgrading its facilities to provide 70 per cent more passenger space in the terminal building, has included a new business centre. This has a reception area, two work stations and three meeting rooms (two of which can be combined into a boardroom-style venue) plus secretarial and other business services.

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ONE DOES BUSINESS *like* CANADIAN DOES BUSINESS

Battle is on to capture frequent flyer's loyalty

Airlines are going to new lengths to keep their business customers satisfied. **Bob Papworth** reports



Mr Hopkins, left, shows Sir Brian Jenkins, then Lord Mayor of London, his firm's offices

If the Chancellor's much-touted economic recovery really is under way, Britain's business travellers can now look forward to a double dawn. Not only will they be called upon to travel more, but the rewards for doing so are about to become even greater.

The world's airline industry has suffered more than many others in the period since the Gulf war. Many big carriers have reported staggering losses, and the battle is on to regain the high ground, primarily from high-yield, big-spending business travellers.

The frequent flyer programme (FFP) is emerging as one of the best weapons in the airline armoury, and enhanced versions of the various schemes will mean better perks for passengers.

Credit for the invention of the FFP is generally given to Texas-based American Airlines, which launched its AAdvantage scheme in 1982. Since then, many others have jumped on the "points mean prizes" bandwagon.

The often perverse logic which persuades airline bosses to attempt to spend their way out of recession, coupled with the increasing sophistication of their electronic wizardry, mean that a second generation of frequent flyer programmes, with more carefully targeted rewards, is upon us.

In Britain and Europe, where airlines generally have lagged behind their North American counterparts, carriers are poised to capitalise on the best FFP attributes without having been involved in the pioneering costs.

In the early days of the frequent flyer programme, the basic offer was straightforward: travel a given number of miles with an airline, accrue a given number of points, and exchange them for another flight.

Working on the premise that the last thing a business traveller needs after a gruelling overseas excursion is yet another overseas excursion, the emphasis is changing.

Britain's Air Miles scheme paved the way for a new look at the prizes on offer. Virgin Atlantic's Freeway scheme, as a prime example, offers such things as hot-air balloon trips, health club visits and even golf tuition in addition to the traditional "free' flights.

While other carriers have been slow to follow that line, many are now promoting a string of enhancements to the business-travel experience — such as separate check-in, flight class upgrades, discounted or upgraded hotel accommodation or car rental. According to the leading players in what are now termed "customer loyalty programmes", better use of better technology means that such incentives will become more attractive.

Martin Tyler Bennett, general manager of International Customer Loyalty Programmes (ICLP), emphasises the benefits to the airlines. "Acquiring new customers can impact heavily on gross profit levels," he says. "Each new customer gained can cost nearly 90 per cent of the gross profit generated by an existing one.

"Retaining an extra 5 per cent of passengers can result in up to a 125 per cent increase in profits, depending on the product sector. Enhancing customer loyalty is the key to the door of profitability."

> 'Service with a smile is no longer enough. Knowledge of the individuals is essential'

Mr Tyler Bennett says that eliminating customer dissatisfaction and ensuring that rewards are carefully targeted is vital in the retention business. "Polite service with a smile is no longer enough. Knowledge of the individuals and their characteristics is essential. Their loyalty has to be viewed as an important, indeed the most important, element of the business."

David Perkins, former marketing chief at British Midland and now managing director of the Carlson Marketing Group's loyalty marketing division, dismisses those who condemn FFPs as mere extensions of the old Green Shield stamps concept. "Frequent flyer programmes are about information. What airlines collect from enrolment forms is not only names and addresses, but lots of demographic and psychographic information. Also, every time a member flies, his route, class of travel and fare paid is recorded.

"The airline builds a database of knowledge about each frequent flyer. Both the free-flight incentives, plus an ability to personalise information and offers to the member as an individual, bond him or her to the airline. This is real loyalty."

The database does not stop there. Detailed profiles of a customer's likes and dislikes can be stored and used: right down to where in the aircraft a traveller likes to sit, or which newspaper he or she prefers. The free flight — or hot-air balloon trip — is only the icing on the business-travel cake.

Inevitably, the schemes do have their detractors. Britain's Guild of Business Travel Agents (GBTA) has suggested that since it is the passenger's company that is paying for the travel, it should accrue the benefits.

Ray Hopkins, managing director of Gray Dawes Travel and a GBTA member, says: "Companies have begun to realise that as the programmes are currently structured, it is the individual who gets the reward but the company that pays the bill."

That problem is being addressed by some of the newer schemes, which allow points to be "banked" and the free flights put into a company travel pool. For the most part, meanwhile, business travellers can continue to enjoy improved airline service and ever greater travel rewards.

How the agencies are improving their service

New deal cuts the costs

Thomas Cook Travel Management, the agency's specialist business travel arm, announced last week that it was picking up the challenge of the Confederation of British Industry and the trade department to build more effective long-term relationships between business customers and suppliers, *David Churchill writes.*

Partnership sourcing, as the idea is called, involves Thomas Cook working more closely with the airlines, car rental companies and hotels whose services it sells and with the corporate customers who buy these services from the agency.

Peter Thomson, the director-general of the Institute of Purchasing and Supply, which supports the initiative, says that "partnership sourcing, such as that developed by Thomas Cook, formalises the practice we have seen over the years of businesses prospering from sharing long-term goals with their purchasers and suppliers".

In practical terms, Thomas Cook wants to replace the existing commission-based system of travel management with a fee and savings-related contract, whereby the agency makes money according to how much it saves a client on travel costs. The disadvantage of the traditional commission system for agents is that, as companies reduce travel and expenditure, less commission is made, which does not always encourage agents to find the cheapest deals.

The partnership agreement, however, recognises that all sides involved in business travel need to make a living, but that savings achieved should be passed to those who make them. Bill Kirkwood, Thomas Cook Travel Management's marketing director, says that its relationship with clients involves "agreeing a clear system of assessment, monitoring of agreed goals and a commitment to continual improvement of the partnership".

The Thomas Cook move has been welcomed by John Cash, Rank Xerox's purchasing manager. "It means Cook is paid for its service but with incentive clauses built into the contract so that the more money it saves Rank Xerox, the higher the reward will be."

Although Thomas Cook's approach is probably the most formal of the leading business travel agents, it is not alone in seeking to develop long-term management contracts with companies to manage their travel more effectively. But the approach also reflects the trend towards better corporate management of business travel and related expenses, estimated by American Express to cost British companies more than £18 billion a year. Under recessionary pressure, businesses are monitoring such expenses more carefully, and this has given specialist business travel agencies the opportunity they sought. Previously, many companies saw such agencies as mere managers of travel services: but agencies showed that more was on offer.

Hogg Robinson, for example, provides client companies with a detailed management information system, giving precise information on who travelled where and when and at what cost — and the savings that were achieved by better management and discounts achieved through bulk buying of airline seats and hotel beds. All the leading agencies offer such services, but basically the more you pay the more flexibility you have.

Room service sharpens

Hotel groups are working harder to provide business travellers with the modern facilities that they need

When Baroness Thatcher reopened the Forte group's new hotel in Warsaw last weekend she saw one of Europe's grand hotels restored to something like its former splendour. The hotel is also right up to date in its appeal to the international business traveller.

The $280-a-night (£183) Hotel Bristol — suites cost up to $1,200 — has retained its Art Nouveau decor and period furniture in its 163 rooms and 43 suites. But it has introduced the latest audio-visual and electronic equipment for its six meeting rooms plus other facilities that business travellers now expect: a fitness centre, pool and gym, direct-dial telephones and satellite television with CNN news.

International hoteliers such as Forte, headed by Rocco Forte, are in no doubt where their market lies: in spite of the Gulf war and recession, which has depressed hotel occupancy and room rates in the past few years, it is the business traveller who represents their core market.

In many ways, the international hotel industry of the early 1990s is analogous to airlines' business-class services a decade ago, when the importance of business air travellers was only just becoming recognised.



Focusing on the core guests: Rocco Forte

Yet, while hotels worldwide have been slow to respond to the needs of the business traveller, their approach is now changing rapidly. They have developed separate "club" or concierge floors to give executives more space. These floors, such as Hyatt's Regency Club, almost always located on the top floors of its hotels, offer a range of benefits, from a free newspaper with breakfast to the services of a concierge to help with theatre bookings and car rental. Many of these executive floors require a special key to gain elevator-access. Yet the cost of staying on an executive floor is not that much more. Hyatt International charges an extra $25 a night, while Hilton Hotels in America charges between $20 and $30.

Hotels have also learnt from the airlines that frequent guests like to be rewarded for their loyalty. Hence most major hotel chains now offer a loyalty programme giving guests extra benefits according to the number of times they stay. In Holiday Inns' scheme, Priority Club, guests simply register with the programme to become eligible to amass the points needed.

The benefits can be given in room upgrades or in free accommodation at some future date. Some schemes offer free gifts instead.

Hotels are also paying more attention to the needs of business travellers when they are in their rooms. Room design has been changed to include a desk with adequate lighting and a telephone to enable executives to work there — previously the phone often was on a bedside table. Many hotels now include two-line phones in rooms, and computer modems, while others, especially smaller "town house" hotels, such as The Halkin in central London or The Mark in New York, offer a fax machine in every room.

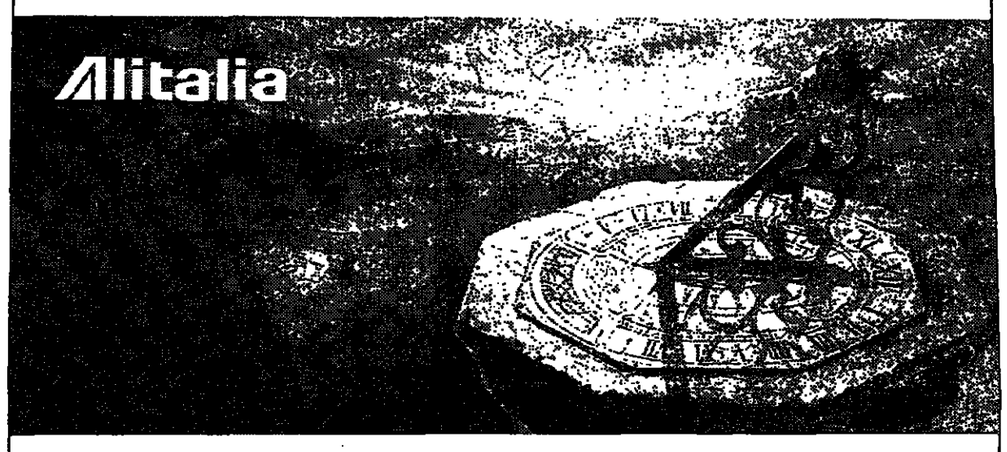
Hoteliers are also coming to terms with another trend of the 1990s: guests staying for shorter periods and trading down as a result of the recession. Thomas Cook Travel Management says that the average hotel stay has fallen from 2.27 nights in 1991 to 2.01 in 1992 and the average room rate by 13.5 per cent between 1991 and 1992.

But, according to a recent meeting, in London of the European Hotel Managers Association, discounting since the Gulf war has not led to any appreciable increase in business or customer loyalty.

So in the long run, such discounts may be replaced by an increased emphasis on service.

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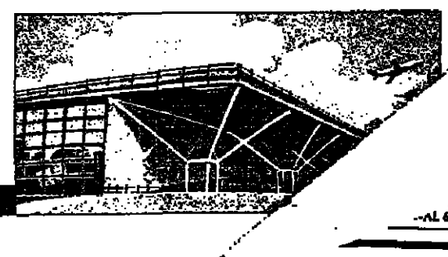
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Flying in the fast lane

Marion Cotter reports on measures to eliminate those frustrating airport delays



Smart move: a passenger takes the Fast Track channel — Europe's first — at Gatwick

Kerbside check-ins, handprint recognition systems, "smart" airline tickets and more dedicated high-speed channels for business passengers could soon make tedious airport delays a thing of the past for today's time-pressured air travellers.

Hand identification technology is being tested on a group of frequent flyers at immigration desks at New York's Newark and JFK airports. Already given a successful trial in a Georgia jail, INSPASS lets travellers insert their hand into a machine while feeding in an identity card bearing a coded magnetic strip. A similar system has been tested at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport, enabling passengers to pass an electronically read identity card through a slot while pressing their fingertips on a screen.

Gatwick airport has introduced Europe's first Fast Track channel to speed higher-fare paying passengers through security and immigration. First and business class passengers also enjoy dedicated check-outs at the airport's duty-free stores, and their own desk for collecting pre-ordered currency at bureaux de change.

The aim is to trim 30 minutes off the time needed to catch shorthaul flights, and more for those travelling longhaul. The system could soon be extended to cover inbound immigration and transfers to and from the airport's carparks.

Members of the Guild of Business Travel Agents (GBTA) want to see it extended without delay to Heathrow and other British airports. "Fast Track is a glimmer of light. But there is still insufficient recognition by airports that frequent business travellers need and deserve special attention," says Paul Allan, the guild chairman. "We would like to see top priority given to streamlining the outdated and ponderous procedures still inflicted on them." GBTA technology experts are working with makers of airport electronic swipe-machines to agree on methods of further speeding up the process.

Pre-flight immigration for passengers flying from Britain to eight American gateways has been tested at both Heathrow and Gatwick to try to speed up the notoriously slow shuffle through passport and customs controls in the United States.

Talks between American and British authorities are under way to determine whether the system might be implemented long-term.

Lufthansa, Swissair and SAS offer a number of city centre check-in desks on the Continent, while Cathay Pacific lets its Marco Polo passengers check in by telephone en route to the airport. Many carriers have kerbside check-in desks in the United States, while United Airlines has just introduced a park and check-in facility at Heathrow's Forte Crest hotel. Several carriers offer valet parking at Heathrow, enabling passengers in a hurry simply to drop their car keys with an attendant at the departure terminal and dash for the plane.

"Smart" airline tickets are also speeding up the route from the road to the runway. ATBs — automatic ticket and boarding passes — are shaving valuable seconds off check-in times by cutting the number of computer keystrokes made by counter staff. British Airways expects ATBs, already widely used in the United States, to replace two-thirds of its traditional tickets by the end of this year.

Little has so far been achieved in the effort to reduce delays on the ground by cutting congestion in the sky, however. Air traffic control hold-ups are already costing the American airline industry $4-$5 billion a year and, by forcing carriers to build a delay factor into schedules, wiping out some of the benefits of travelling in today's faster fly-by-wire jets. Improving the performance of Europe's creaking air traffic control systems is one of the prime aims of the International Air Transport Association's Air Transport Action Group.

In the lap of luxury in Eastern Europe

The bad old days are ending in such places as Moscow, but visitors still have to be careful

Business travellers waking up in one of Moscow's new breed of Western five-star hotels must think they have died and gone to heaven. Cocooned in wall-to-wall luxury and the latest in push-button technology, they need only lean out of their kingsize bed to flick on satellite television before sinking their toes into deep pile carpets and contemplating a whirlpool bath.

It is much the same story in Warsaw, Prague and Budapest, where a huge injection of Western cash has transformed hotel standards from the fire risk to the outright divine in barely three years.

A survey published by American Express in March, in which executives from 800 European Community companies were questioned on aspects of doing business in the region, confirms that Eastern Europe's travel infrastructure is now vastly improved.

Hotels and restaurants were deemed to be world class. Clearing customs and coping with big airports was no longer considered a problem, and there were high levels of satisfaction with taxi services in Budapest and Prague. Those in Warsaw, where telephone services leave something to be desired, came in for criticism.

So much for the good news. The bad news is that the region's shaky market economies have spawned a new set of social problems.

Street crime has soared, and Westerners make plum targets for thieves. Rag-tag fleets of pirate taxis tout for business while black marketeers practised at sleight-of-hand comb the streets looking for anyone tempted to change money outside the banks.

> 'Whatever you want, someone or other wants their cut first'

Waiters become experts at creative arithmetic when it comes to adding up the bill. Credit card holders can be faced with hefty surcharges for paying with plastic, or confront outlandish exchange rates when proffering cash.

"The mafia here is bigger than in Italy," claimed the young Russian guide leading our party around Red Square. "It is like Chicago in the 1930s. Whatever you want, someone or other wants their cut first."

Dollars do the talking in Eastern Europe. Zlotys, roubles and leva might be useful for incidentals, but greenbacks, plus the odd pack of Marlboro, oil the wheels of business.

Travelling around also has its hazards. Cabs with dubious brakes ferry Westerners around the streets of Moscow and Sofia cheaply but not necessarily safely. Taxi muggings are not unknown.

Getting around the region by air can be even more scary. Travelling with Aeroflot remains an uncertain affair. Do not be surprised to find 20 or so spare passengers on board, left to stand pressed against the aircraft door.

Business travel agent Hogg Robinson advises first-time visitors to the new East to be careful. "We have had one or two reports of travellers being whisked away by taxi drivers from Bucharest airport and robbed, not to mention an increase in petty crime generally," says Mike Whiteman, general manager of the company's group travel division. "We advise clients to remember that tact and a sense of humour can go a long way."

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